

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 55

TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you monitor
your child's on-
line activity?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION



A private jet crashes in Indiana, killing two people. **> PAGE 15**

FOCUS



Welcome to the new off-white America. **> PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Japanese architect Toyo Ito wins the 2013 Pritzker Prize. **> PAGE 19**

Mafnas back to Customs as acting chief. PAGE 3 'Maratita one of 3 in the running for DCCA secretary' PAGE 5

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» NMI issues 120-day
notice to end agree-
ment with ICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it is currently placing its detainees in Guam and Hawaii facilities because of unresolved deficiencies in medical care at the Saipan adult prison. The CNMI Department of Corrections, for its part, wants to end its agreement with ICE on the use of the prison complex, which has two housing sections reserved for up to 25 ICE detainees yet received only up to two since the start of the year.

See ICE on Page 4

DUE TO 'UNRESOLVED' DEFICIENCIES IN CNMI PRISON

ICE pulls out its detainees

DUE TO 'PAYMENTS ISSUES' Doc refuses to sign birth certificates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many birth certificates dating back to last year remain pending at the Health and Vital Statistics Office of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. due to the absence of a required signature by the attending physician.

Saipan Tribune learned this following disclosure by corporation officials

See DOC on Page 4

MORE INSIDE

» Fish, lobster, and butterflies take to the skies in kite festival. **PAGE 6**

» The International Ballet of Stars has a phenomenal turnout. **PAGE 9**

» In China's shadow, Guantanamo Uighurs languish in Palau. **PAGE 13**



KITE FESTIVAL

A man prepares to fly his kite at this year's Marianas Winds Kite Festival hosted by Brilliant Star School on Sunday at the American Memorial Park field in Garapan. Dozens of family members gathered at the whole day event that also featured food and games as well as a raffle.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Story and more photos on Page 6

Ogumoro allowed to post \$1K cash bail



Ogumoro

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed police deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro yesterday to post a \$1,000 cash bail and \$9,000 unsecured bond for his temporary release in connection with his role in the alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general

» OPA files 11 criminal charges vs Fitial bodyguard Nekaifes

Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons.

As this developed, Office of the Public Auditor special prosecutor George L. Hasselback filed yesterday in court an information charging Jermaine Joseph Wabol Nekaifes with 11 criminal charges. Nekaifes used to serve as personal driver and bodyguard of former governor

See OGUMORO on Page 4



MARCH SPECIALS

Powered by Reliability and Superior Coverage.

Saipan: 682-4ITE [4483] • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE [4483] • www.ite.net

Motorola Milestone
\$49*



SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

*Terms and conditions apply

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS




- Eucon International School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman Elementary School
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Marianas High School
- Mt. Carmel School
- Saipan Community School
- Saipan International School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy
- G.T. Camacho Elementary School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan International School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

SILVER SPONSORS






- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High
- Grace Christian Academy
- Mt. Carmel School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School
- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan SDA School
- WSR Elementary School

BRONZE SPONSORS










- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Marianas High School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Marianas High School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School
- Kagman Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Green Meadow School
- Green Meadow Pre-school

If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

Local

Families of war vets take part in 'bone ceremony' on Tinian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visiting family members of war veterans under Valor Tours took part in a "Japanese bone ceremony" yesterday morning on Tinian, a first for any veteran group to do in the CNMI, according to PDI director Gor-

don Marciano.

Marciano said the group is composed of Dan Owens, whose father's best friend, Dan Godsy, served on a B-29 on Tinian; David Wilson, whose father, Bernard Eugene Wilson, was a gunner with the 6th Bomb Group; Brent Petrie, whose uncle Harold B. Fulmer was with


the 2nd Marine Division during the Liberation of Saipan; and Hume "Andy" Giles, whose father was with the 4th Marine Division on Saipan and Tinian and whose uncle Arthur Nunn was with the 67th Battalion Seabee and helped build the North Field on Tinian.

See FAMILIES on Next Page




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family members of war veterans under Valor Tours raise a toast during a "Japanese bone ceremony" yesterday morning on Tinian.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Historic Preservation
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 500090 CK, Airport Road
Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2013**

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately \$362,198 from the U.S. National Park Service for Fiscal Year 2013. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to finalizing the grant package, the Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities and activities it should further undertake to enhance or strengthen its program. The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY2013 grant cycle:

- Employing six full-time staff for the Saipan, Tinian and Rota Offices
- Contract two required positions to meet the Secretary's Professional Qualifications Standards for history and for historic or prehistoric archeology.
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Upgrading professional skills of the field personnel on Saipan, Tinian and Rota
- Continue to publish the results of archaeological & historical research
- Conducting a required inventory assessment project
- Conducting one required survey and inventory on Saipan, Rota and Tinian
- Conducting lectures at Commonwealth schools and arranging for fieldtrips to archaeological and historical sites
- Partner with MARC on exploration of Northern Islands surveys

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than March 27, 2013. Written comments should be addressed to Laura T. Ogumoro, Acting CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer, P.O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to dysup@gmail.com. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

Island	Location	Date	Time
Rota	Round House	March 21, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tinian	Mayor's Conference Room	March 21, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saipan	Multipurpose	March 22, 2013	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
Acting Secretary, Community & Cultural Affairs

PHS Commissioned Corps leaves behind lab manager

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps left behind one of its members at the Commonwealth Health Center to ensure the hospital's continued certification with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Mafnas back to Customs as acting chief

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joe C. Mafnas went back yesterday to his old job as director of the Division of Customs, albeit in an acting capacity at this time following last week's courtesy resignation of Jesus C. Muna.

Mafnas said that among his priorities is making the K-9 unit operational again, nine months since the last of the nine previous dog handlers left the division for a host of reasons.

"I know there are challenges, and I hear them directly from the staff. But the challenges can be fixed," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* after wrapping up a meeting with Customs personnel yesterday.

Mafnas said it is not only the K-9 unit's staffing that will be taken care of, but the rest of the division as well.

"We need to have adequate staffing because we're helping guard the CNMI's borders [from illegal drugs, explosives, and other illegal and dangerous items from other places]," he said.

He returns to Customs 10 years after leaving the post to be a director of the Administrative Services Division at the Department of Finance. Customs is one of the divisions under Finance.

Mafnas, in a phone interview, said that when he left Customs in 2003, the division's K-9 unit was a "model for the Pacific," providing training for dog handlers not only from the CNMI but also from Palau and American Samoa.

"Now it's like starting from scratch because the biggest

CEO Juan N. Babauta

The team, composed of 16 members who were deployed to the hospital for a 90-day mentoring mission, left the islands last week but one member agreed to stay on and will serve as interim laboratory manager, a critical position that would automatically decertify the hospital if left vacant.

"Through our request, they

challenge there is hiring dog handlers," he said. One of the first things on the drawing board is bringing in trainers to train any dog handler that will be hired by Customs.

Right now, there are three trained drug-detector dogs and one explosives-detector dog. But because all nine certified dog handlers left Customs, these dogs have been sitting idle since June 2012.

Customs personnel are manually inspecting incoming cargo, luggage and passengers, although the inspection time is longer than when they had the aid of these drug- and bomb-sniffing dogs.

Mafnas said it's important that Customs uses every "tool" available to carry out its functions, including the use of drug- and bomb-detector dogs.

Customs' two x-ray vans have also been sitting idle for about a year now because they haven't been repaired since breaking down. Mafnas said they would communicate with federal grantors to see whether they could help fund the repairs of the x-ray vans.

Mafnas said he's seen the proposed budget for Customs for fiscal year 2014, reflecting an increase from the current year to be able to properly staff the division.

"I am hoping it would be passed as proposed," he added.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), who worked at Customs for 14 years before becoming a lawmaker, said he will make sure that Customs will have enough funds to be able to hire dog handlers.

clearing the site, allowing their group to enter it.

Dan Owens, for his part, acknowledged the people of Tinian and Saipan, saying that he will present the certificates and medallion to the Godsy family. Brent Petrie said his aunt will be happy to receive the awards as his uncle Harold has already passed on.

The group also met with Tinian High School students.

Marciano expressed his appreciation to the Tinian Mayor's Office and special assistant Annie Marie San Nicolas, Farrell, Camacho, and Historic Preservation Office Tinian coordinator Carmen Sanchez for their "endless and untiring support" in ensuring that the sites were cleared and ready for the group.

maintained the PHS Commissioned Corps member behind. ...Our goal is to make sure that there is no gap in the position because it would immediately put CHC out of Medicare compliance," said Babauta.

Saipan Tribune learned that the interim lab manager, Lt. Christopher Le, is a biomedical and laboratory director and the assistant secretary for preparedness and response. He oversees the Nationwide Biomedical and Laboratory Program for three Mission Support Centers and nine regional facilities.

Babauta said that Le will remain for two more weeks while the corporation works on finding his replacement.

Babauta said the corporation has already sent a request to the U.S. Department of the Inte-

rior's Office of Insular Affairs for funding assistance. Recruitment, he said, is also ongoing.

Another top priority for the corporation is to immediately hire a chief financial officer—one of the recommendations of the federal team's sustainability plan for the hospital, according to Babauta.

At the moment, the position is being held by Esther Muña, who is also the corporation's chief operating officer.

During Friday's meeting, board member Roy Rios asked Babauta about the findings of the medical team relating to the incumbent CFO. "Did they say she is not qualified for the position?" asked Rios.

Babauta replied that the "current position" has been identified as having weakness-

es in the area of accelerating the hospital's ability to generate revenues.

"There are areas of weakness in her and the commissioned corps said that this weakness is significant enough to hire a CFO who has extensive background in hospital revenue cycle management. The team recommends that we have a CFO who is solely responsible for our financial matters," said Babauta, adding that a CFO is key to strengthening the financial capability of the corporation.

Outdated billing codes

Corporation board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz disclosed Friday that the Tinian and Rota health centers are still using outdated billing codes that date

back to 2008, which is why the centers are encountering many billing disputes.

"Billing and coding departments are so behind in the two centers because codes are outdated? How can that be improved if they don't have access [to the corporation's new system]?" asked Dela Cruz.

Babauta said that the corporation—which include both centers—is on its way to automation through the electronic health record system. He blamed the delay on the lack of staff in both centers.

Although not automated yet, Babauta said the two centers now generate monthly revenues of up to \$40,000, compared to the \$10,000 a month it used to collect before it became part of the corporation.

MARCH SPECIALS

Powered by Reliability and Superior Coverage.



MOTOROLA MILESTONE

THE MOTOROLA MILESTONE PLUS ANDROID SMARTPHONE GIVES YOU A 1GHZ SUPER-FAST PROCESSOR, WORLDPHONE CAPABILITY, ACCESS TO YOUR CORPORATE DIRECTORY AND THE BEST WEB-BROWSING WITH ADOBE® FLASH® 10.

\$49*



HTC WILDFIRE

\$49*



HUAWEI ASCEND

\$49*



HTC INCREDIBLE

\$79*



MOTOROLA DROID X

\$79*



\$79 UNLIMITED

/month TALK, TEXT & DATA



IT&E

Life in Motion

Get connected. Stay connected

with the BEST network in the CNMI and Guam

*Some conditions apply • must sign up for 2-yr contract on Unlimited Android Plan

SAIPAN: 682-4ITE (4483) • TINIAN: 433-0210 • ROTA: 532-3599 • GUAM: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • WWW.ITE.NET

FAMILIES

From Page 2

Marciano said the tour group was very touched with the remarks of the Japanese speaker at the ceremony.

The group then proceeded to the 6th Bomb wing presentation following the bone ceremony and was met by historian Don Farrell, CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office director Ben Camacho, and Tinian residents who witnessed the event.

According to Marciano, David Wilson shared his gratitude for being able to set foot in the area where his father stayed and was "very thrilled" that he found the exact spot where his father's quonset once stood. Wilson thanked everyone involved in

5 to 6 DPS employees either suspended, terminated

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero confirmed yesterday that he terminated for cause the employment contract of Ambrosio Ogumoro as DPS deputy

commissioner.

In a news briefing, Deleon Guerrero also disclosed that five to six DPS employees were either suspended or terminated effective Friday because of criminal conviction or pending criminal cases.

Deleon Guerrero said the termina-

tion of Ogumoro's employment was a result of the criminal charges filed against him in connection with the investigation conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor.

The commissioner said that Ogumoro will continue to serve as deputy commissioner for the next seven days.

DPS chief orders crackdown vs burglars, robbers

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero expressed disappointment yesterday with the recent burglary that victimized visiting Russian ballerinas and he vowed to crack down on burglars, whom he described as a menace to society.

Deleon Guerrero said the burglary hurt several agencies that are doing a lot to revive the tourism industry.

He said DPS is now looking into the incident.

"We are hopeful that something

fruitful will come out so that we can bring those perpetrators to justice," he said.

Five Russian ballerinas reportedly lost laptops, cell phones, cameras, cash, and other items to burglars that broke into their apartment unit in Koblerville last week.

Deleon Guerrero noted that burglary—or property crimes in general—are a very big problem in the Commonwealth.

"I think it's time that a concrete

solution is initiated to crack down on these things," he said.

He disclosed that he will be issuing a general order to make the TASC project permanent, referring to the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition, a special group of detectives that has been successful in running after burglars and robbers.

He also urged the Legislature to pass a bill that will impose stiffer penalties on crimes of burglary, theft, and robbery. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

DOC

From Page 1

that a private physician has refused to sign the birth certificates due to unmet financial obligations of patients.

Sources revealed that Health and Vital Statistics Office program manager Wilbert Gilmete-Rospel has already relayed this issue to the Office of the Attorney General.

According to corporation officials, the refusal of the private physician to sign the birth certificates due to payment issues is a violation of Public Law 15-50, Section 9, which pertains to birth registration requirements.

According to this law, medical information needs to be provided within 72 hours and registered with the registrar within five days after a

child's birth.

Saipan Tribune learned that Gilmete-Rospel told assistant attorney general Allen Hazlip that the issue is becoming a legal concern for the corporation after his office communicated with the private physician about these outstanding birth applications, which requires the doctor's certification.

Sources disclosed that most of the affected birth certificates date back to 2012.

Saipan Tribune opted not to identify the private physician involved until comments could be obtained from the doctor. However, calls made to the physician failed yesterday.

In an interview with corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta yesterday, he confirmed being aware of the issue. He disclosed that the corporation is awaiting the official position or advice of its

legal counsel on the matter.

Babauta said the "payment issue" is between the private doctor and his/her patients but he is concerned how the situation will affect the pending records of the statistics office.

"As CEO, I am concerned about it and we are seeking the legal advice from [the OAG]. The corporation will wait for an official opinion on the matter and will start from there," he told Saipan Tribune.

Babauta said the situation "should not go on" because this creates legal problems. The corporation's Health and Vital Statistics Office is responsible for enforcing Public Law 15-50 pertaining to the birth certification.

The corporation may revisit its partnership with CHC providers to reiterate the existing policies and statutes that need to be followed.

OGUMORO

From Page 1

Benigno R. Fitial.

The charges against Nekaifes include conspiracy to commit theft of services, obstructing justice, interference with service of process, interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, and misconduct in public office.

Ogumoro, Nekaifes, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam, and CPA's Capt. Juan Rebuenog all appeared in court yesterday.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja reset Nekaifes' arraignment to today, Tuesday, at 9am, after his lawyer, former judge Timothy Bellas, asked for more time to review the charging information and other documents.

The arraignment for Kosam, and Rebuenog was also reset to April 22 at 9am.

Nekaifes, Kosam, and Rebuenog were arrested on March 6 for their alleged participation in a coordinated effort by several persons to shield Buckingham from being served the penal summons in August last year. The three were subsequently released after each posted a \$500 cash bail.

OPA has also issued penal summons against Fitial but he has yet to be served as he is currently off-island.

Wiseman issued an arrest warrant against Ogumoro on March 6, 2013, on charges of conspiracy to commit obstructing justice, interference with law enforcement officer or witness, criminal coercion, theft of services, miscon-

duct in public office, and obstructing justice, among others. Wiseman set a \$10,000 cash bail for Ogumoro.

Last Friday, Wiseman held the arrest warrant in abeyance at the request of Ogumoro's lawyer, Douglas Cushnie, and directed Ogumoro to appear in court yesterday at 9am. Wiseman also ordered Ogumoro to remain at his residence until his scheduled appearance in court yesterday.

Ogumoro arrived at past 12am Sunday from an official trip in Canada and was handed a termination letter effective March 24.

At yesterday's initial court appearance, Wiseman allowed Ogumoro to post 10 percent or \$1,000 of his \$10,000 cash bail plus \$9,000 unsecured bond.

Cushnie requested that his client be allowed to post a \$500 cash bail—the same bail imposed on Nekaifes, Rebuenog, and Kosam—but Wiseman rejected this, saying the three acted as subordinates of Ogumoro as OPA alleged.

Wiseman required Ogumoro to surrender his passport and all DPS items or property issued to him.

Ogumoro was ordered to stay away from the airport and prohibited from having contact with potential witnesses, among other conditions.

Ogumoro will be arraigned on April 22 at 9am.

Cushnie told reporters after the hearing that the public should be reminded that there are two sides to a story.

In his affidavit supporting the arrest warrant against Ogumoro, OPA chief

investigator Juan M. Santos stated that late on the evening of Aug. 3, 2012, and during the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012, Ogumoro briefed police officers Stanley Patris and Myron Laniyo about escorting Buckingham and his wife from the Aquarius Hotel to the Saipan airport.

Ogumoro allegedly emphasized to the two that the main objective of the escort was to ensure that no persons are allowed to approach the Buckinghams other than those directly involved in the escort.

Santos said that Ogumoro stressed that no member of the escort was to leave from his assignment until he (Ogumoro) gives the "all clear" order.

At the airport, Rebuenog allegedly gave Patris and Laniyo two CPA passes that would allow them to pass through the secure area of the airport, with the intention of preventing FBI agents from serving the summons upon Buckingham.

Patris and Laniyo allegedly expressed concern to Rebuenog about the ramifications of the order and their ability to legally carry it out but Rebuenog reportedly told them that the order directly came from Ogumoro and that Ogumoro have cleared them.

An FBI special agent eventually managed to serve Buckingham with the penal summons shortly before the Delta Air Lines flight for Japan took off in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012. Buckingham, who is reportedly in the U.S. mainland, has been declared a fugitive from justice.

He also noted that aside from OPA's investigation, Ogumoro is also facing a number of administrative complaints filed by some DPS employees.

Of the five or six employees suspended or terminated, Deleon Guerrero said administrative activities were initiated in the past two weeks to clean up the department.

"Individuals who have been charged with crimes have been suspended pending the final outcome of their cases. And those convicted have were

terminated from employment as well," he said.

The commissioner said he feels that these steps are necessary in order for the department to begin the process of regaining the public's trust and confidence.

"We have to show the community that we are just as capable in policing our department as much as we are entrusted to also be able to police the community," Deleon Guerrero said.

ture endeavors," she said.

The federal agency, however, did not respond to the question whether it agrees with the notice of intent to end the agreement between DOC and ICE.

Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said the two parties have to "come to a mutual understanding" to resolve their issues.

Early last year, ICE gradually transferred 13 of its 20 detainees to Guam, Hawaii, and Los Angeles in California while the CNMI worked on ICE's concerns about the inadequacy of health-care services for immigration detainees at the Susupe prison.

Mafnas said for DOC purposes, ICE detainees are classified by federal authorities as administrative detainees.

He said ICE detainees demand and are entitled to "relaxed security, generous access to nursing, health, medical, dental and other services and privileges."

"These extensive privileges require additional logistical responsibilities including medical records maintenance by a qualified medical records technician. Such extraordinary arrangement and privileges present constant challenges and increasing liabilities to the CNMI DOC and the Commonwealth," Mafnas said.

Initially, DOC reserved nearly 100 bed spaces with the expectation from ICE to house up to 100 detainees. The expected number was subsequently reduced to 50, and then 25.

Since the signing of the IGSA, there was only one day in which the number of ICE detainees reached 22, Mafnas said.

"During the last two months, the CNMI DOC received only two ICE detainees, which is far from the intent of the IGSA between CNMI DOC and ICE. As of today, there is only one ICE detainee housed in one of the two housing units kept in reserve for ICE. These sections are air-conditioned, lighted and well maintained," Mafnas said.

Sablan said in the end, whether the IGSA is terminated or not, the CNMI has to take a close look at whether its prison complex complies with national prison standards.

Last year, when the same issues surfaced, sources said some of ICE's requirements, including having an in-house nurse at the Susupe prison or an on-call nurse, are difficult to meet at a time when Corrections and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are financially struggling.

Former attorney general Edward Buckingham at the time said that once ICE's concerns are addressed by the CNMI, the number of ICE detainees at the Susupe facility could go back to either the previous level or more, including up to 50.

Housing 50 federal inmates at the Susupe prison could translate to \$1.6 million revenue for the CNMI based on an \$89 rate per inmate per day.

ICE

From Page 1

CNMI immigration has been placed under federal control pursuant to a 2008 law that also allowed the islands to have a nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a member of the prison task force that was formed while he was still a CNMI immigration director, said yesterday that the CNMI cannot "force" ICE to place its detainees at the Susupe prison knowing that deficiencies in medical care, among other things, still exist because the federal agency will also be violating prison laws and rules if it does.

He said these are "policy decisions" of both agencies involved.

Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas sent on Feb. 14 a 120-day written notice of intent to terminate the Inter-governmental Service Agreement or IGSA between DOC and ICE, as provided for in the agreement itself.

The effective date of termination of contract is June 17, 2013.

"After careful assessment and evaluation of the IGSA and the benefits derived, the CNMI DOC made the determination that it was not in its best interest and that of the Commonwealth to hold in reserve and commit extraordinary resources and efforts to continue the IGSA contract with ICE," Mafnas said when asked for comment on the issue.

He added that this situation is not unique to the CNMI's DOC. He said similar institutions in the nation "chose not to commit extraordinary resources to such an IGSA at great cost and burden."

ICE, for its part, said it is committed to ensuring the welfare of safety of all those in its custody.

Lori K. Haley, spokeswoman for DHS' ICE, said facilities under contract to house ICE detainees must conform with the agency's rigorous detention standards and undergo regular top-to-bottom inspections.

"A recent assessment of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands prison complex by the ICE Health Services Corps revealed deficiencies in the medical care available to ICE detainees," Haley told Saipan Tribune.

Haley said ICE has informed officials at the CNMI Corrections about the findings.

Since the issues remain unresolved, ICE is currently using detention facilities in Guam and Hawaii to house its detainees," she said.

The ICE spokeswoman said ICE values its relationship with the CNMI Department of Corrections and appreciates the support the commissioner and his personnel provide.

"ICE looks forward to continuing to work closely with the CNMI Department of Corrections on current and fu-

'Maratita one of 3 in the running for DCCA secretary'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos confirmed yesterday that Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) is one of at least three individuals being considered for the post of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary after the governor accepted Melvin Faisao's resignation last week.

472 application for scholarship awards so far denied

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Scholarship Office has so far denied 472 of the 870 grant applications it received for the spring 2013 semester, according to administrator Rose Pangelinan.

The government's scholarship program rejected their applications primarily due to a lack of supporting documents and unmet grading requirements.

Pangelinan said her office received 1,116 applications from the following students: 870 from "ongoing" (on-island and off-island) scholars; 121 from new applicants; and 125 from "returning" students.

As of yesterday, 398 applications by ongoing students have been approved, Pangelinan said, together with 36 new students; and 17 returning students, for a combined approved total of 451.

Pangelinan said that 132 applications by ongoing students are still under review so the 451 approvals may slightly go up in the coming weeks.

The NMI Scholarship Office is tasked to provide financial assistance to eligible CNMI students pursuing postsecondary education. It offers two grants: the Educational Assistance Program and Honors scholarship programs.

This spring 2013, scholars will continue to receive \$938.34 for those enrolled at Northern Marianas College and \$1,050 per semester for off-island recipients.

The governor said a decision could be made in two to three weeks, or earlier. He declined to

name the others being considered for the Cabinet post.

If Inos chooses Maratita, a

2 men arrested for separate sexual abuse of minor girls

Two men were arrested on Friday for separate cases of alleged sexual abuse of minors, including one who is now five months pregnant.

Anthony Gapach Castro, 21, and Donald Ayuyu Hocog, 45, were taken to Superior Court yesterday for their initial appearance.

Castro was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for allegedly impregnating his 15-year-old girlfriend.

Hocog was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, child abuse or neglect, indecent exposure, assault and battery, and assault.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a \$25,000 cash bail for Castro and \$75,000 cash bail for Hocog.

Police detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report

that a police officer responded to a school on Jan. 24, 2013, in response to a report of sexual abuse of a minor.

Hermosilla said the officer learned that a student could not perform any fitness activity during Physical Education class because she is pregnant.

The girl identified the father of her unborn child as her boyfriend, Castro.

In Hocog's case, police detective Jesse K. Seman stated in his report that, on March 13, 2013, a Division of Youth Services representative interviewed a 13-year-old girl who confessed that Hocog started sexually abusing her when she was 6 years old.

The last incident allegedly occurred in 2011. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

special election for Precinct 1 where Maratita hails from will be held to fill the vacancy she will be leaving behind in the 20-member House of Representatives.

Maratita declined to comment yesterday when asked by reporters. It's been weeks since Maratita's name came up in relation to replacements for Cabinet members whose courtesy resignations will be accepted by the administration.

"Her name came up. I understand she has plans on resigning from the Legislature. I thought that she would be a resource person. So she, as well as oth-

ers, [is] under consideration," Inos told reporters after a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

He said Maratita "expressed her interest" in taking over the post.

Effective yesterday, Division of Youth Services director Laura Ogumoro serves as acting DCCA secretary.

A permanent DCCA secretary has yet to be named, for submission to the Senate for advice and consent.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said he has not heard from Maratita about her plans.

Deleon Guerrero said if Maratita becomes DCCA secretary and a special election needs to be held, the Legislature may also have to consider whether other legislative initiatives can be placed on the ballot as well for voters to decide on, although this means increasing the cost of holding a special election.

Meanwhile, Inos said he continues to review the performance reports submitted by other Cabinet members and agency heads, although there may be at least two more announcements this week.

The governor has already officially accepted or rejected some courtesy resignations.



Be in control of your finances.

PAYANYDAY® PERSONAL LOAN

5.99% APR*

Fixed for 5 Years

On a \$10,000 Loan with \$50 preparation fee

At First Hawaiian Bank, we know how important it is for you to achieve your financial goals. Whether you use it to consolidate bills, pay tuition or purchase a new car, PayAnyDay Personal Loan has just the right options to suit your needs.

Visit any branch
or call 1-800-403-7167.



First Hawaiian Bank

Yes we care.

fhb.com
Member FDIC



Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-5559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

* The Annual Percentage Rate of 5.99% is for new approved personal loan applications received 03/01/13 to 04/30/13 with a principal amount of \$10,050.00 and a term of 60 months. Loans with other principal amounts (\$2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the Annual Percentage Rate could be different. For Guam only, for loan terms greater than 36 months, minimum loan amount is \$9301.00. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of \$50.00, which will be added to the principal balance of the loan. For a 60-month loan of \$10,050 at 5.99% APR, you will have 60 monthly principal and interest payments of \$193.30. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer not for Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **March 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **March 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **March 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations — up to 4:00pm
Chalan LauLau — up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza — up to 6:00pm
Online payment — up to 9:00pm

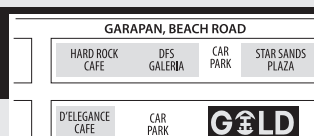
VISIT YTT GOLD Jewelry TODAY



Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn gold for **CASH!**

- Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
- Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
- We will give you CASH on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza



Fish, lobster, butterflies take to the skies in kite festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's clear blue skies and occasional gusty winds on Sunday were the perfect foil for the annual Marianas Winds Kite Festival, which brought together dozens of families for some kite flying fun.

Bright and colorful kites in various shapes and sizes—from fish and lobster to bats and butterflies—dotted the skies above the American Memorial Park field in Garapan, with kite flyers young and old working to get their home-made and purchased

kites off the ground.

Now on its 5th year, the Marianas Winds Kite Festival is a community event organized by Brilliant Star School and aims to get together families to spend quality time outdoors.

The one-day event attracted competitive participants who vied for trophies and bragging rights in different categories. All competing entries were required to have a minimum 5-minute flight.

The Highest Flying Kite award was given to 6-year-old Tristan Raho, a Brilliant Star student who brought his entire

family to the festivities.

The Most Beautiful Kite award went to sisters Nicole and Monique Mascarinas for their aircraft-shaped kite.

"We bought it from the Joeten Superstore and we made some improvements on it. We didn't expect to win but the girls look really happy that we did win," said their father, RJ Mascarinas.

The Biggest Kite award was given to Cole Chambers and Alan Hinson, who started flying their giant fish kite right around noon.

A surprising win that day was the Smallest Kite award, which went to Chalan Kanoa resident Amado Tumbaga, who captured it from Cid Mostales, who had won the category in the past three years.

Tumbaga described his prize-winning kite as representative of the CNMI: a latte stone-shaped kite made of recycled newspaper and glued to a star-shaped cardboard with red-and-green mwar mwar as a tail.

"This is the first time I joined this competition and I did it just for fun," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Most Original award was presented to Garapan resident Ramil Eustaquio whose kite is



Mascarinas siblings Nicole and Monique accept the Most Beautiful Kite award for their aircraft kite.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

called *gurion*, a classic kite design indigenous to the Philippines characterized by a pointed nose and an oval shaped body.

"I was really expecting to win because my design was like no other and very *Pinoy*," said Eustaquio who won last year's Highest Flying Kite award.

Sunday's festival also featured several game and food

booths for families to enjoy. Organizers and sponsors also gave away exciting prizes through a raffle draw.

Brilliant Star School principal Richard Sikkel said they had a really good turnout and that the judges were really impressed

with the hand-made kites, particularly the entries for the smallest kite category.

"The important part is that families really came out to fly kites and enjoy. Thank you all and we hope to see everyone again next year," said Sikkel.



Tristan Raho, 6, holds his trophy for a souvenir photo with his family after winning the Highest Flying Kite award.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Amado Tumbaga smiles for the camera after winning the Smallest Kite award for his latte stone-shaped kite.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Cole Chambers and Alan Hinson show off their kite, which won them the Biggest Kite award.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

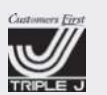


Ramil Eustaquio and family pose for a group photo for winning the Most Original award for his *gurion* kite.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Taga, Inc., the organizing committee of the 24th Annual Tagaman Triathlon, 12th Annual Saipan Xterra Championship and 12th Annual Taga Kids Triathlon would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for making these events a great success:



- ✦ JM & Associates
- ✦ Hyatt Regency Saipan
- ✦ The Athlete's Foot
- ✦ Microl Corporation
- ✦ JTL Timing
- ✦ Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan
- ✦ 3Hi.Res Designs
- ✦ Saipan Tribune
- ✦ Marianas Variety
- ✦ ARCS Radio
- ✦ American Red Cross
- ✦ American Memorial Park
- ✦ Commonwealth Health Center
- ✦ NMC Nursing Students (coordinated by Mr. Jaime Camero)

- ✦ Saipan Bike Pro
- ✦ Marianas High School National Honor Society
- ✦ NMIFA/Paire Football Club
- ✦ Beach Road Magazine
- ✦ Northern Marianas Triathlon Federation
- ✦ Northern Marianas Athletics
- ✦ IP & E
- ✦ Department of Public Works
- ✦ SEA FIX
- ✦ Hawaiian Rock
- ✦ Pacific Development, Inc.
- ✦ Top Development Inc.
- ✦ Division of Boating Safety

- ✦ Division of Parks & Recreation
- ✦ KFC Triathlon Club of Japan
- ✦ Marianas Pacific Distributor, Inc.
- ✦ Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
- ✦ Emergency Management Office
- ✦ Department of Public Safety
- ✦ Marianas & Kagman High School Students Volunteers
- ✦ CNMI Sports & Recreation
- ✦ Gold's Gym
- ✦ Marianas Resort & Spa
- ✦ Pacific Trading Company
- ✦ Saipan Swim Club
- ✦ Kinpachi Restaurant
- ✦ J's Restaurant

Special thanks to the different landowners, volunteers, supporters, fans and general public for their kind understanding and patience in the staging of these successful events. Since we already started planning for next year's Saipan Sportsfest, we would like to kindly solicit the continuing support and cooperation of those above and the general public.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE CULINARY COURSE STARTING AT NMTI

A general meeting explaining the Culinary Course at Northern Marianas Trades Institute (NMTI) will be held, today March 19, at 5:00P.M. at the institute.

Everyone is invited!

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-094 (ROTA)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2013 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAUILLAN
SECRETARY OF DEQ
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

\$1.2M in wedding coverage for NMI

Publishing staff from one of Japan’s most influential guides for overseas weddings were in the Northern Mariana Islands earlier this month to discover the tropical allure of this beach resort destination for couples ready to tie the knot.

The estimated advertising exposure value for the Northern Marianas is \$1.2 million.

Zexy Overseas Wedding Guide plans to dedicate the first six pages of its April 2013 issue

to telling its 32,000 subscribers about wedding facilities and amenities in Saipan, as well as honeymoon and other leisure experiences available here.

“Couples aren’t looking for just a wedding, they’re looking to fulfill a dream, and Zexy Overseas Wedding Guide coverage will be a great opportunity to help couples imagine that dream coming true in the Northern Marianas,” said Marianas

Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The MVA assisted the six-member media team with securing photography permits, a dolphin watching tour with Saipan Sea Ventures, and a tour of Managaha with Tasi Tours.

During their tour from March 4-8, 2013, the magazine team also focused on the wedding chapel and amenities of Hyatt Regency Saipan, where they lodged. *(MVA)*



CALVO BEGINS 2ND TERM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos administers the oath of office yesterday to Charles M. Calvo, who begins serving his second term as a member of the Civil Service Commission. Calvo's renomination was confirmed by the Senate on Feb. 28, 2013. Also present were CSC chair Herman R. Guerrero, CSC executive director Andrew Orsini, OPM director Sid Seman, commissioners Arsene Borja and Tina Kukkun, and CSC staffers.

Eucon to host Classical Music Concert

The EUCON International College will be hosting a Classical Music Concert on March 23, 2013, Saturday, at 6pm, at the EU-CON Agape Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 each. Performers will include teachers, students, and an opera singer from Guam. To buy tickets, call the EUCON Business Office at 234-3207. Tickets will also be sold at the gate during the night of the concert. *(PR)*



VISITING OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, are U.S. Marine Corps Col. Lawrence S. Loch, USMC Gen. John M. Paxton, Tinian mayor's chief of staff and CNMI historian Don Farrell, Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig Weldon, USMC Brig Gen. Paul Kennedy, and USMC Col. William R. Costantini, special assistant to the Assistant to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a windshield tour of Tinian on Friday afternoon.

Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Area General Manager (AGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

Prioritizes, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its Brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities

People:

- Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
- Has active succession plan in place for all positions
- Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees.
- Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
- Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance with all applicable laws

Financials:

- Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
- Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency.
- Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit

Operations:

- Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
- Raises the bar in operational execution

Assets:

- Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
- Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency

Availability

- Open availability.
- Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
- Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Required Skills

- Analytical: Able to analyze reports and correct deficient areas efficiently.
- Problem Solving: Able to implement TOSIDPAR problem solving techniques to achieve desired results.
- Organization & Planning: Able to organize priorities and develop/ execute plans achieving desired results.
- Coaching: Able to develop the skills of subordinates to perform at a higher level
- Team Building: Able to stabilize staffing and build team bench.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Assistant Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 40-45 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Assistant Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The ARGM assists the RGM in the achievement of the people, financial and operational goals of the restaurant.

Essential Accountabilities

People:

- Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
- Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
- Personally coaches staff
- Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance with all applicable laws

Financial

- Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
- Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
- Strives to drive year-upon-year growth in sales and profits

Operations

- Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
- Raises the bar in operational execution

Assets:

- Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
- Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
- Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability

Availability

- Open availability.
- Minimum 5 day, 40 - 45 hour work week.
- Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Shift Manager (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Assistant Restaurant General Manager (ARGM) Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Shift Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The SM assists the RGM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities

People

- Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
- Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
- Personally coaches staff
- Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance to all applicable laws

Financial

- Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan
- Displays urgency in correcting daily financial control deficiencies

Operations

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Crew Member (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities

Performs a variety of duties that may include the duties of a Telephone Person, Cashier, Register Person, Dough Person, Cut & Pack Cook, Maketable Pizza Preparer, Receiving & Stocking and Lot Person.

TELEPHONE PERSON

Essential Functions

- Answer telephone quickly within Pizza Hut guidelines.
- Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
- Accurately record customer orders on to POS system.
- Communicate to make table personnel any special requests.
- Keep counter and work area clean and organized at all times.

CASHIER

Essential Functions

- Ensures an accurate accounting of all transactions, collections and disbursements during work shift.
- Receives cash drawer at beginning of work shift and verifies the accuracy by counting money in cash drawer.
- Obtains and reviews information regarding price changes or menu specials.
- Greet guests as they enter the dining area or carryout area.
- May take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
- Itemizes and totals guests' food and beverage purchases or may collect food and beverage checks from guests and ring them to the register.
- Collects cash, checks, or charge payments from guests. Makes change for cash transactions, verifies identification for checks and prepares charge voucher for credit card purchases.
- Counts money, checks, and charge payments in cash drawer at end of shift.
- May reconcile checks, cash receipts and charge sales with total sales to verify accuracy of transactions.
- Stocks counters, display refrigerators, salad bar, and steam table neatly, accurately and in a timely fashion as per menu.
- Checks to ensure that all display foods are presented attractively as per standards.
- Displays food under appropriate hot or cold conditions as per standards.
- Keeps display equipment clean and free of debris during meal service, as assigned.
- Cleans workstation thoroughly before leaving area assignment.
- Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

REGISTER PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for providing quick and efficient service to customers.
- Greets customers and takes their food and beverage orders.
- Accurately records customer's orders on to POS system and computes the amount of the bill.
- Serves drinks from dispensing machines or makes and serves hot drinks from water heater or coffee maker.
- Picks up food items from serving bar or storage area.
- Places items on tray or in take-out containers.
- Checks orders to ensure that guest is receiving a complete and correct order.
- Informs kitchen staff of shortages or special requests.
- Checks payment from guest and makes change.
- Helps with preparation of food in kitchen.
- Helps with getting back up food on line
- Washes dishes.
- Informs manager of stock levels.
- Restocks drink station/supplies, paper.
- Checks supplies in counter area – napkins, crushed peppers and cheese, and restocks items to ensure a sufficient supply throughout shift.
- Wipes off front counter with cleaning solution and clean cloth. Keeps counter and floor clean at all times.
- Cleans and restocks dining room.
- Takes trash out to dumpster.
- Performs long-term maintenance on sidewalks, walls, and equipment.
- Sweeps and keeps exterior lot clean at all times throughout the shift.

DOUGH PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for dough preparedness as prescribed from Manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures.
- Selects and transports raw items to work area and back.
- Stores finished products in proper places.
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare items as procedures require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

CUT & PACK COOK

Essential Functions

- Checks workstations for presence of small equipment, assembly materials, paper goods and condiments.
- Responsible for product assembly, checks appearance and calls out preparation times for all orders.
- Monitors oven setting according to Pizza Hut standards.
- Checks all finished products to ensure compliance with Pizza Hut standards.
- Communicates with maketable personnel, front line personnel and MIC for quality controls and feedback.

MAKETABLE PIZZA PREPARER

Essential Functions

- Responsible and required to prepare and assemble all products according to customer's order and according to Pizza Hut portioning specifications.
- Sets up the maketable by checking the worktable, counter, dough cabinets, and line refrigeration to ensure they are properly stocked prior to the meal production period.
- Checks all workstations (maketable, pasta) for presence of appropriate small equipment, assembly materials, and stock levels.
- Monitors all food production areas for safety and sanitation practices and procedures. Checks for cleanliness and orderliness and provides direction/takes action as necessary.
- Sets up production cycles, ensure proper inventory levels are available, and calls to back up or replenish items as necessary.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.

Job Vacancy Announcement

• Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Wait Help

Essential Functions

- Greets the guests as they enter the dining area.
- Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
- Take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
- Attends to the needs of the customers.
- Clears table when guests leave.
- Wipes tables with cleaning solution and a clean cloth.
- Performs secondary duties such as phone order taking, product preparation and restaurant maintenance.
- Keeps dining area clean and organized at all times.
- Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

Receiving & Stocking

Essential Functions

- Responsible for the receipt and storage of all food, supplies and materials received in the restaurant using proper EXPERT, FIFO and Pizza Hut procedures.
- Receives all food, supplies, and materials.
- Checks all incoming items for count, quality and specification.
- Ensures that items are received and stored at the proper temperatures.
- Maintains the completion and compliance of all delivery and inventory records as defined by proper Pizza Hut procedures.
- Keeps all storage areas and inventory in a neat and orderly fashion.
- Maintains the quality of the restaurant products by ensuring that all inventory are dated properly before storing to effect proper FIFO usage.
- Maintains the safety of the restaurant by ensuring that all storage areas are free of hazardous conditions.

Lot Person

Essential Functions

- Receives assignment from Manager In Charge at the start of shift.
- Maintains cleanliness and sanitation of dining room including all tables, chairs, support bars, floors, windows, and trash receptacles.
- Cleans and restocks drink station with ice and lids as needed.
- Cleans and restocks restroom facilities with soap, toilet tissue and paper towels. Empties trash containers, cleans walls, doors, basin, mirrors, floors and toilets.
- Maintains exterior cleanliness from litter and debris. Checks lighting, windows, landscape, parking lot, sidewalks, trash corral and signage.
- Communicates with manager in charge to maintain cleanliness efficiency and ensures guest satisfaction. This includes assisting guests with trays and opening doors.
- Follows priority sequence on lot checks, should take care of any eye soars first, such as spilled drinks, over flowing trash receptacles, etc.
- Return trays to designated area to be cleaned.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills

Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Communicates clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers in English. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience

Food service and food production experience preferred. Cash handling experience preferred.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 25 lbs.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions

Delivery Driver (1)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities

Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions

- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma preferred.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills

Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai • Closing Date: March 22, 2013

Comments on proposed pesticide regs due March 28

The Division of Environmental Quality has published its CNMI Pesticide Management Regulations in the Jan. 28, 2013, edition of the Commonwealth Registrar and to date, no comments or inquiries have been made.

"Unfortunately, DEQ has not yet received inquiry or comments about the proposed regulations and there will be impacts to the regulated community," said Reina Camacho, manager for the pesticide and storage tank branch at DEQ. "This comment period is an opportunity for the community to voice his or her concern on any item proposed in the pesticide regulations. As you know, rules and regulations are developed and they affect our everyday

lives and all of us are expected to comply."

The regulations apply to all persons that import, sell or distribute, use, handle and or apply pesticides. "The reason for the new regulation is to ensure the proper management of pesticide use, sale and local requirements meet federal standards and practices applicable to the islands," said Camacho.

One of the most important parts of the rulemaking process is the ability of the public to participate. Public feedback on regulations is necessary if we are to fully embrace our democratic values. The most important of these public participation mechanisms is the ability to comment on a proposed rule through what

is commonly referred to as the "notice-and-comment" period in an informal rulemaking.

To provide comments, follow these simple steps.

Step 1: Read the proposed regulations. The proposed pesticide regulations are available for viewing and or downloading at the agency website <http://deq.gov.mp>

Step 2: Write your comments. Include the specific part or section and subsection for which you are commenting and what amendments you would like to be considered.

Step 3: Submit your comments. You will need to provide your first name and last name and contact information (phone, email or mailing address) so

that DEQ can contact you for additional information or clarification. It is optional to include your occupation or profession; however, having this information, will be helpful in understanding your perspective.

Mail: Written comments must be addressed to the DEQ director Frank M. Rabauliman. DEQ's mailing address is: P O Box 501304 Saipan, MP 96950. Comments received through mail must be postmarked by Thursday, March 28, 2013.

Email: Comments submitted via email must be sent to storagepesticides@deq.gov.mp and must be received before the close of business day, 4:30pm, on Thursday, March 28, 2013.

Other suggestions for making

sure your comments have the greatest possible impact:

- Clearly indicate if you are for, or, against the proposed rule or some part of it and why. Regulatory decisions are based largely on law and science, and agency reviewers look for reasoning, logic, and good science in comments they evaluate. Please note that simply stating your agreement or disagreement is not sufficient for DEQ to make changes; DEQ wants to know why it is important to you.
- Include a copy of articles or other references that support your comments.
- Only relevant material should be submitted. If an article or reference is in a foreign language, it must be accompanied by an

English translation verified to be accurate. Translations should be accompanied by a copy of the original publication.

DEQ published the proposed pesticide regulations on its website since November 2012, featured a summary of the changes with media sources in January and has held stakeholder sessions every Tuesday at its office throughout January and February.

In the event there are no comments received on or before Thursday, March 28, 2013, the proposed regulations shall be adopted as is.

DEQ is located at the Gualo Rai Center on Chalan Pale Arnold; office hours are 7:30am until 4:30pm. Tel: 664-8500 and Fax: 664-8540. **(DEQ)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Li'l Hands Music School smile for a group photo following their post-Valentine musical recital last Feb. 24 at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Music school's students showcase talents

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Li'l Hands Music School held a post-Valentine musical recital on Feb. 24 at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret in San Antonio.

Over 30 students ranging from 4 years old to teenage years showcased their talents in singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments in the recital, which is now on its 7th year.

Following a "love" theme, students performed Valentine hits, including a Hawaiian song, on the piano and guitar. Additionally, the students staged a modern dance number.

"For all their hard work and perseverance, the students pulled off a commendable performance," said Li'l Hands Music School.

The school's annual recital aims to present to the community the students' achievements and accomplishments.

Formerly RCS Music, Li'l Hands Music School was established in 2006 as a learning institution that offers piano, voice, and guitar lessons.

Last month's event was made possible by the students' parents and guardians as well as sponsors Micronesia Brokers Inc., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, National Office Supply, IT&E, Joeten Enterprises, Marianas Business Plaza, KFC/Taco Bell, HBR International, Inc., Kura Ling Dive, Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, and R&M.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 19, 2003

NMI awaits war orders

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI is bracing for instructions, if any, coming from the U.S. government on the impending U.S.-led war against Iraq, following President Bush's 48-hour ultimatum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his sons to either leave the embattled Middle Eastern country or face military attacks. The local chief executive made the statement yesterday almost immediately after viewing Bush's national address on television with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, some Cabinet members and government employees present at the Governor's executive conference room in Capital Hill. After catching Bush's live address, the administration quickly called for an emergency meeting gathering Cabinet members to discuss preparedness efforts in the event that a shooting war breaks out in less than two days.

Wholesalers, retailers: No need for panic buying

With the 48-hour deadline for Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, the Saipan Association of Wholesalers and Distributors said yesterday it would convene in efforts to stabilize the supply of basic commodities in the Commonwealth to prevent panic buying, which is already happening in some countries. Association president Kitz

Barja said the group would come out with plans on how to keep the flow of supplies into the Commonwealth going, even if a war between the United States and Iraq eventually erupts. "We will meet on that and discuss it, possibly in the coming weeks," Barja said.

March 19, 2004

CDA rejects airline investment

The Commonwealth Development Authority passed up the opportunity to invest \$500,000 of CNMI funds in Palau Micronesia Air after assessing the business deal as a high-risk investment. Chairman Sixto K. Igisomar told Gov. Juan N. Babauta that CDA board members voted five to zero to reject the proposal, mainly due to finance and marketing worries. Following a thorough review of the investment proposition, the board concluded that "PMA's business plan is overly optimistic" without the backing of an adequate marketing plan. "CDA, as an investor/shareholder, must look for 'value' in the investment, and as it now stands, it can lose its investment in one year," Igisomar expressed.

Economic devt strategy OK'd

The Economic Development Administration, under the U.S. Department of Commerce, has approved the CNMI's 2003-2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which could pave the way for millions of funding assistance for the Commonwealth in projects designed to foster economic growth. Commerce Secretary Fermin M. Atalig, currently the acting Finance Secretary, confirmed the plan's approval with the EDA regional office in Seattle, Washington. The CEDS has been approved since Oct. 1, 2003, according to EDA Community Planner Lloyd Kirry. The CEDS, developed

by a 19-member commission appointed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, highlights a list of priority areas that the CNMI needs to encourage economic expansion.

March 19, 2005

Betel nut fungi spread to San Vicente

The deadly fungus that has already killed hundreds of betel nut trees on Saipan has now spread to over a hundred trees in San Vicente, according to a local expert. Northern Marianas College--Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera said yesterday that his group discovered another outbreak of the fungus *Phytophthora meadii* in San Vicente during a regular routine surveillance of the area. San Vicente now joins other areas whose betel nut trees have been infected by the fungus, including As Lito, As Mahetog, Capitol Hill, Donni, Kagman, Papago, and Tanapag.

CUC: \$8.2M of receivables uncollectible

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has considered \$8.2 million of its total receivables uncollectible, with the accounts being past due for over 75 days. CUC's latest financial report showed that utility receivables totaled about \$33.7 million as of Jan. 31, 2005. Of this amount, about \$20.1 million is due from CNMI government agencies. The remaining \$13.6 million is due from residential and commercial customers. Of the amount due from households and businesses, CUC estimated that about \$8.2 million is "uncollectible." This includes all accounts due for more than 75 days, as well as over \$936,000 that is due from 21 customers who have easement claims against CUC.

Ballet concert draws 'phenomenal turnout'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The International Ballet of the Stars presented over the weekend by the Glushko's Academy of Arts had a phenomenal turnout, drawing an estimated crowd of over a thousand spectators for the two-day event based on ticket sales.

Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden, academy president, said this is the best turnout they've ever had for the ballet concert, which is now on its 10th year.

"This goes to show that the people of Saipan are coming of age," Oden said in an interview after Sunday's show.

Oden said the hundreds of man-hours they put in for the \$70,000 show become worth it when the audiences come up to them to say how much they appreciate the performances of both local and visiting ballerinas.

"People come to thank us for bringing something classical to Saipan. They say there's nothing like this on island," he said.

He noted that the six ballerinas who came from Russia and Japan for the annual show perform *pro grata*—for free—as a tribute to academy instructor Anna Glushko who has been dancing ballet for most of her life.

This year's event was marred by a burglary, with the visiting ballerinas losing their cash and other valuable items such as an iPhone.

Oden shared the "unfortunate" incident during an intermission during Sunday night's show. He recounted how the organizers were compelled to make the young dancers stay in a house rental in Koblerville since hotels on island are fully occupied.

Burglars got into the house and took off with the dancers' prized possessions they brought with them for what was supposed to be a nice island vacation that turned into a bad dream.

"When you're at their age, when you lose your smartphone and other electronics as well as cash, and you're not being paid to be here, you've lost your whole life. It's a great loss for these girls," said Oden, adding that he and Glushko had to console the ballerinas until the wee



President Gene Eagle Oden and instructor Anna Glushko of the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts are flanked by local and visiting ballerinas following the successful two-day staging of the International Ballet of the Stars at American Memorial Park on March 16 and 17.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

hours of the morning because of the incident.

But unfortunate situations can turn into a positive experience. As soon as Oden announced how the burglary victims need help for the duration of their stay, community members approached the organizers to donate whatever amount they can or offer services such as transportation and even water sports activities just to help the ballerinas cope with the incident.

"I have a pocket full of checks, dollar bills, and business cards from people who want to offer these girls assistance in any form. I even had one young girl who came up to me and offered her school allowance for the girls," said Oden.

"This is the finest community in the world for its demonstration of overwhelming kindness, generosity, and support. If the community have not come around these girls like a warm blanket and make them feel comfortable, they wouldn't start to feel better," Oden told *Saipan Tribune*.

While authorities have yet to arrest any suspect, Oden expressed hope that the public will also help apprehend whoever is responsible for the burglary.

The weekend show featured husband-and-wife ballet dancers



Ballerinas of the Glushko's Academy pose with their respective mothers after Sunday's show.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



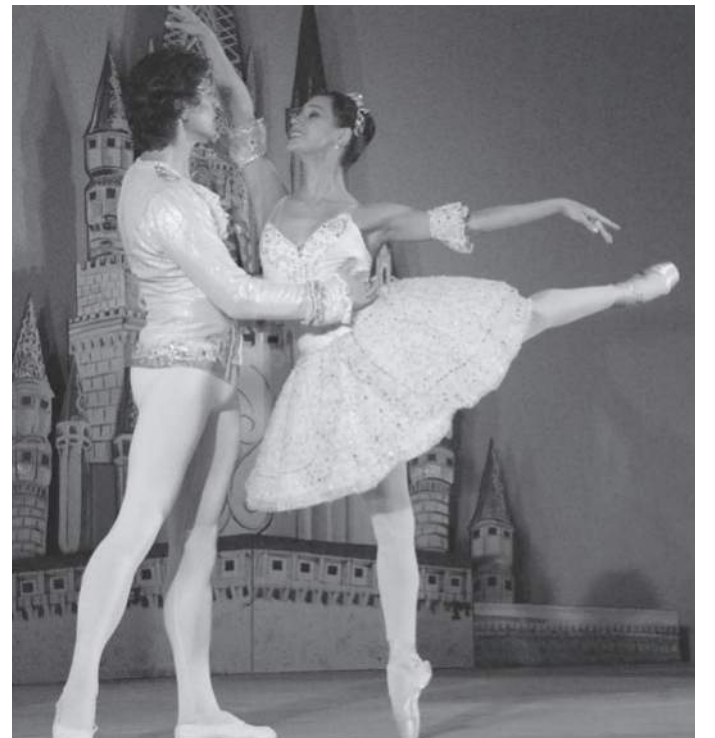
Husband-and-wife ballet dancers Alexey Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina wow the crowd with their remarkable skills.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

ers Alexey Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina, who brought along their daughter, Eva, for one of her first public performances. The promising ballerina is currently on training at the world-famous Vaganova Ballet Academy.

This year's concert was also highlighted by performances

from Cerinn Hwang and other Glushko's Academy students who continue to hone their skills in ballet under the tutelage of Glushko.

Organizers expressed their appreciation to all sponsors and donors that made it possible to stage the International Ballet of the Stars.



Alexey Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina interpret the 3rd Wedding Act of Sleeping Beauty.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



Russian ballerinas perform an excerpt from Don Quixote.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 55Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Francis, a pope of firsts

The election of a new pope is primarily of interest to Roman Catholics, for whom the bishop of Rome is the Vicar of Christ and the keeper of the keys to heaven. But there is a reason, other than a fascination with history and pageantry, that the wider world will watch expectantly as Pope Francis, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, begins his ministry.

Although Stalin famously mocked the papacy by asking, "How many divisions does the pope have?" the institution remains hugely influential, with reach well beyond the church. A series of popes in the 20th century lent the authority of their office to the cause of social equality and the rights of workers. Pope John XXIII, the elderly "caretaker" pope elected in 1958, convened the Second Vatican Council that embraced the concept of religious liberty, reached out to other Christians and repudiated the vile notion that Jews were collectively guilty in the crucifixion of Christ—a "blood libel" that fueled Christian anti-Semitism over the centuries. Though rooted in theology, these gestures transformed the lives of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Likewise, the failures of several popes to confront the scandal of sexual abuse by some priests has harmed more than the faithful. Disillusionment over these violations of trust, and the willingness of bishops to cover up for abusive priests, has demoralized Catholics, of course. But it also has undermined the credibility of an institution whose charitable and educational activities benefit not just adherents of the faith. Francis will be judged, as he should be, on whether he adopts on an international basis the policy of "zero tolerance" of abuse that American bishops belatedly adopted.

Based on his career as a bishop in Argentina, the new pope can be expected to support what Catholics call the "preferential option for the poor." That impression is strengthened by his choice of a name; St. Francis of Assisi loved the poor and disdained pomp and ceremony. That doesn't mean the new pope will pursue other policies described as liberal, such as acceptance of same-sex marriage, against which he campaigned in Argentina. But there was little chance that a College of Cardinals shaped by John Paul II and Benedict XVI would produce a pope willing to break with traditional Catholic teaching on marriage and sexuality.

At 76, Francis is only two years younger than Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was when he was elected pope in 2005. That may limit the tenure of a pope whose election already has ignited enthusiasm across Latin America. Whatever the length of his eventual tenure, this pope—any pope—will exert influence beyond his flock; non-Catholics will benefit along with Catholics if Francis devotes himself to the causes of peace, human rights and reconciliation.

©2013 Los Angeles Times

ITEM: APPLYING FOR OBAMACARE "AS DAUNTING AS DOING YOUR TAXES"



Iraq War anniversary and shades of deja vu

The 10th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq stirs up feelings of deja vu. There's talk that Iran already has a nuclear bomb. And the United States is offering aid to Syria's rebels and getting involved in another distant conflict. These developments recall the \$1 trillion war, built on an incorrect premise.

We can't help but ask why did we believe the claims of weapons of mass destruction, or that Saddam Hussein had ties to the Sept. 11 attacks? And we ask why the two main groups, military and civilian, had to pay such an enormous price for this war.

The total numbers of the dead are still uncertain. The number of U.S. soldiers who died in Iraq is 4,486. And though official U.S. position is to not keep track of Iraqi civilian deaths, the conservative total puts that figure at 121,736.

The most common excuse given is that there was bad intelligence. Recently on a documentary called "Hubris: The Selling of the Iraq War" was shown on MSNBC, a major planner of the war, Colin Powell's chief of staff Lawrence Wilkerson, said there had been a hoax Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. We wonder whether his "stuff happens" explanation is acceptable.

Personally I was opposed to the war not because I had any inside information but because I worried about my relatives in Iraq. Most of them told me they were glad to be rid of Saddam Hussein, and soon after the invasion, I tried to give the new Iraq a chance. However 10 years on, those same relatives, who were comfortable before the war, still don't have electricity, water or security. Car bombs explode fairly regularly and kill innocents at markets, schools and other civilian locations. Human Rights Watch charges that the regime is violating the rights of vulnerable citizens, especially women and Christians.

They agree life under Saddam Hussein was difficult, but it has become more difficult under Nouri al-Maliki. On the anniversary, the Iraqi people I know are asking why their choice must be limited to the two evils of tyranny and chaos.

As a U.S. citizen, I worked for the U.S. government in the Green Zone. I translated for some diplomats, and I worked with a lot of soldiers. It was a difficult position at times. At least one colleague occasionally asked me what kind of passport I carried, "regular or squiggle"? He meant a U.S. passport or an Arabic one. But the majority of the guys I worked with were fine young men and women proud to serve the United States. Sadly now they are home, and some feel abandoned.

A lot of soldiers have been unable to find a job. Many face the struggle of going from doing something important, serving our country and being treated with respect, to nothing.

It may have been easy to return to normal life after serving in

By YASMINE BAHRANI
McClatchy-Tribune NewsYasmine Bahrani is a former editor for
McClatchy-Tribune and worked at the U.S.
Embassy in Baghdad during the Iraq War.

a popular war such as World War II. But it's hard, as we learned after Vietnam, to return home after serving in an unpopular war. So unpopular is the war that today our politicians don't wish to say "Iraq," perhaps hoping that it will disappear on its own. President Obama did not mention Iraq during his State of the Union speech. If he doesn't talk about it, who will?

Clearly there is a need to talk about it. The number of unemployed veterans is 20 percent. While it's a good start that a national department store chain announced its plans to hire 100,000 vets over the next five years, some fear it is not doing enough. The Veterans Administration reports that 30 percent of the troops treated have PTSD.

One veteran wrote a song about his experience. He called it, "I'm Evil." I told him he was one of the kindest people I have ever known and could not possibly think of him in those terms. Regardless, that's how he feels.

I asked him about the title of the song, he said: "You feel guilty, ashamed, lucky and cursed."

I asked him why? Maj. Frank Vassar answered: "You can't undo what you did. You wish you didn't do what you did. But if you didn't do what you did, you wouldn't be here today," he said. "It's a circle. You never find an answer."

Vassar is still with the Air Force. However, many soldiers are out of work. Vassar said potential employers should give the vet "a second look," because ex-military types are good workers.

"Because of the way we're regimented," he said. "The way we stick to our times, we're used to accomplishing things in a certain time periods. We develop a resolution from point A to point B."

Companies might listen to the major's advice and help the soldiers reintegrate after their service. But what of the others who had to pay for mistaken intelligence? Must Iraq's civilians be reduced to a footnote?

As we hear the nervous talk about Iran and Syria, the answer to the question of whether the war was worth it, might well be no. But that should not diminish the contribution of the veteran. Maj. Vassar said, "I take my hat off to anyone who went over there. I definitely acknowledge that."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kinahulu’ Santo Papa Francis

Gi mapos na semana, 1.2 biyon na mañgatoliku sumel-ebra ma-elihen Santo Papa Francis kumu i mas ma’gas na pale Katoliku gi enteru elmundu.

Humidde tinateña si Santo Papa Francis. Guiya finenina na papa ginen hियोŋ iya Roma. Guiya finenina na pale Jesuitas humalom kumu Santo Papa.

I primet fino’ña gi linahyan ‘nai anog gi bintana santo papa, “Tayuyue’yu”. Klaru na este na santo papa i primet na ma’gas Katalisismo ni ginen i tautau.

Gi un’ tiempu ‘nai sumen chatsaga iya Argentina, megai kabayeron politika man-listu gi inefresen sathasion areglu. Man-sinañgane as Santo Papa Francis (‘nai trabiha o’bispu-gue’) na siha finenina u areglan maisa siha antes de u fan halom manman-areglu.

Mauleg ta hahassu si Santo Papa Francis gi tinayuyot-ta pagu na semana gi selebrasion un’ ma’gas na misa para guiya kumu papan mañgatoliku gi enteru elmundu.

Metgot na papa bastara ke ginen superiot mamale’ Jesuitas gi san-papa’ na America.

Dañges gi puntan hogsu’

Kada ha destrosia hit didog na pinadese (naturat ‘sino finatinas tautau) ta falague i mas hihot na katsada para ta atuke i sumufa’ hit na ira. Gua-ha pot diskuiduta pot ti antau haf’ disision-ta. Lau lamayot patte gaige i diskuidu gi ta pega kumu representanten publiku gi hegsu’ I Deni’.

Gi hilu’ oppan yan klaru na disision publiku, fuetsau ta tobus si Gobietnu Fitial ginen siyaña guine gi alacha ya ha resigna-gue’. Buente guaha pa’gu kampu para ta aregla halom gima’ta. Ke motibu, kau satton este na diniseha yan kau talañgag i mamamaila’?

Ansianu-yu’ lokue’ lumi’e na i ineppe “huñgan”. Mientras tantos

A decade after Iraq War began, we should make amends

By **RAED JARRAR**
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Iwas born in Iraq, and in 2003, I was in Baghdad. My family and I spent the first weeks of March preparing for the U.S.-led invasion. I was in charge of storing gas for the generator, placing tape across windows, and hiring a contractor to dig a well in our backyard.

As we feared, President George W. Bush launched his war of choice on March 20. We survived, but we were among the lucky ones.

Millions of Iraqis have been killed, injured or displaced. One of the most developed countries in the region at the time of the invasion, Iraq now is among the worst in terms of infrastructure and public services. Baghdad ranks lowest in the quality of life of any city in the world, according to a recent global survey from the consultant group Mercer. Moreover, the Iraqi national identity has been replaced by ethnic and sectarian affiliations.

I am half Sunni and half Shiite—or “Sushi,” as Iraqis jokingly call kids of mixed marriages. I was never asked my sect before

hu pupulan lokue’ haf’ sustansiau na tinilaika siha para u fattu gi papa’ i nuebu na administrasion. Tana’e dididi’ tiempu pot para ta ina yan analisa dispues kau ha danche i primet pasu.

Puede ti ta pega dañges gi halom fotte na guinaifen mañglu’ gi puntan hogsu’ gi hilu’ esperansa na u guaha che’chu’ milagru. Gaige ha’anita gi haf’ ta petsige gi halom dos patman kanaita gi che’chu’ linahyan siha.

Ayudun Saina

Dañkulu na pagyu pumesun enteru un’ soñgsuñg. Tinatitiye ni fotten dilu-biu. Man-mafaisen i tautau siha para u fan malag latatkilu’ na lugat.

‘Nai mattu i tata yan lahiña gi menan sadog ni malalagu papa’ gi hegsu’, ha sañgane lahiña “Gu’ot-yu’ ya adahe na un’ sotta estake mattu hit gi otu bandan sadog”.

Mattu dinidaña i patgon ya ha sañgane si tataña, “Ahe’, hagu un’ gu’ot-yu’ sa’ metgotña fangu’ot-mu ke guahu”. Dispues de makrusa i sadog, ha togtug i lahiña pot libre siha ginen fuetsudu na hanom sadog ni mimilalag papa’ gi hegsu’.

Haf’ moralidatña este na estoria? Diskute dibuenamente haf’ sineda’ miyu pot este na estoria.

Ayudu gi na’mase

I yine’ase’ yan ayudu gi man-na’mase’ siha na mañelu-ta sumen impottante gi matan i Saina. Gi siñku ni mas man-famosu na leblon biblia ni hu taitai, metgot sineyu’ i Sainata para hahassu i man-na’mase’ siha bes enkuandu. Sessu ha repite i para ta ayuda i ti muna’ siña.

Esta pagu’ memetgot ha’ este na patte gi kutturata. Maseha dididi’ lau estaya ta ekstende kanaita gi man-na’mase’ siha na prohimuta ‘sino ayu i numesessita magahet ayudu.

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Muñga nina’ lastima man-ayuda gi man-na’mase’. Este na tinagu’ ha tutuhon-gue’ deste tiempon Yuus Tata gi tanu’. Man-matuge’ gi biblia para ta hahassu kulan obligasion-ta i ti muna’ siña. Hu li’e magahet na guaha ha’ sumen makat ha fatinas ni taimanu na animu mana’e. Estegue’ i numesessita ayudu-ta.

Todo klasen batida guaha gi manera ‘nai hafanu’e hit i Saina tau-tau ni ume’ensinahyau pot ayudu. Ayu ma’ñauhu i para bai’ upus pot banida ya ti hu li’e haf’ i prohimu na ayudu ha nesessita. Pot esso na mas man-repara-yu gi karera-hu diariu.

I premiu gi inamko-mu gaige gi haf’ pinega-mu gi halom hatdin linala’mu. Ennau na hatdin espehos giya hagu. Yangin man-lachog i tinanum siha, pues klaru na un’ attende nesessidat ennau na hatdin.

‘An megaiña tinanom man-malahyu pues pot diskuidu-mu. Pot esso na mauleg ta usune animu umasiste ennau na hatdin para to sosoda dispues gulusina yan otu siha kinisecha ni siña ta benefisia gi inamko’a. Na’e animu bumisita diariu ennau na hatdin.

Muñga hinalañg sa’ tat ti mamadedese mientras ke tatautau ha’ maseha haye na finañagu. Parehu finapos todus. Taya’ tiempomu tumatnon gi karera-mu umaregla ha’animu yan i prohimumu ni parehu hamyu mamomokat kumu achaugamu.

2003. I did not know who from my friends was a Sunni or a Shiite until then. But now, these sectarian divisions have become a core component of Iraq’s new identity, and they continue to threaten its territorial integrity and national unity.

The invasion and occupation of Iraq took a heavy toll on the United States, as well.

Almost 4,500 young American men and women were killed, some 32,000 were injured, and hundreds of thousands came back home with psychological trauma. According to Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard professor Linda Bilmes, U.S. taxpayers will end up spending \$3 trillion on the Iraq invasion, occupation, and care for returning soldiers.

The Iraq fiasco also damaged America’s credibility and reputation around the world. Bush and his senior aides, supported by pundits, sold the American people a lemon. Americans were told Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and the U.S. invasion would save the world from imminent danger. Americans were also promised a clean and swift operation that would liberate Iraq and be welcomed by Iraqis.

None of that happened.

Yet, after all this, no apology has been given to Iraqis, no politicians have been prosecuted, no pundits have been held responsible, and no compensation has been given to Iraq. If you don’t support the idea of compensating Iraq, consider this: Kuwait has been receiving compensation from a country that illegally and immorally invaded it in 1990. That country, believe it or not, is Iraq.

Ten years after Bush waged this senseless war, I am now a U.S. citizen and homeowner in Washington. More than ever, I am eager to turn over a new leaf in U.S.-Iraqi relations. But for that to happen, we can’t just sweep the war under the rug.

America must apologize to Iraq, pay for what it broke and hold the individuals behind the war accountable.

Raed Jarrar is an Arab-American blogger and architect. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Performance evaluation

The news media reports that the board of trustees of CHC is still not finished with the CEO’s annual performance evaluation even after a six hours of interview, and the fact that it seems this ordeal may continue for several more hours is turning into a joke. If there is a competent human resource management official in the hospital, this process should have been structured and processed with some degree of certainty and systematically dealt with following a well drawn out procedural steps months before the impending scheduled performance evaluation deadline of the CEO.

Job evaluation is not just an annual event but is a daily event that should deal with the performance outcomes being produced by the incumbent. A performance evaluation done only a few days before the employment contract’s deadline is actually a dereliction of function of the human resources management office of the hospital.

I have dealt with human resources management work as a professional HR practitioner for many years. And, performance evaluation strategies and approaches have been my passion as an expert in human resources management matters because this is one of the processes in HR work that provides for a measure of the contributions made by an incumbent of the position and at the same time also measures the value of the position to the life expectancy of the organization, which in this case is the hospital. I know what am talking about because I studied hospital administration.

Evaluating the CEO of a hospital is a serious matter and should take some time to do, but the interview and what is being reported in the media are just drawing attention to a process that should play out well if done systematically over time. Any job evaluation procedure

is important, but the economy and successful methodology used would determine the actual effects of this tool on the overall impact of the organization. Now, many of us are wondering just what the board is evaluating in the CEO’s job description and work productivity outcomes. It would be interesting to know what the board has uncovered so far and what it would be able to draw out from the interview already completed and what it expects to discover from the remaining performance evaluation interview scheduled this week. Would it make sense to ask the board what it has already satisfied itself about this CEO on the following job dimensions?

1. Leadership and managerial qualities of the incumbent.
2. Personal qualities of the incumbent.
3. Judgment and sensitivity.
4. Knowledge and skills of the job.
5. Board relations.
6. Medical staff relations.
7. Community relations.

Another good predictor of job performance is requiring the CEO to specify what are his/her personal and hospital goals for the coming year. But, before going and venturing on this factor, the CEO must demonstrate what goals he had set and achieved during the annual evaluation period under review. This exercise is the CEO’s commitment level and would be the board’s starting point for the daily observation of the CEO in the coming year, if necessary.

But, then again nothing of what we are saying here would be practical and make sense if the hospital and the CEO have no clear mandate and a source of purpose that includes the following organizational lifeline for the present and ongoing growth of the hospital:

1. A clearly defined vision, mission, and set of values for all stakeholders of the hospital.
2. An up-to-date strategic plan with clearly specified organiza-

tional goals and objectives.

3. A current written employment contract and job description for the CEO.
4. The current written job description for the board of trustees.

The information, if provided by the board in sufficient and logical manner, would give the community and lay people like myself our own evaluation of the CEO and how the board is allocating the resources of the hospital. We should be able to link whether this CEO measures up to the salary of the position and if the community is receiving good value for the performance outcomes being produced and demonstrated for the period in question. While stakeholders outside the hospital usually lean on the board’s review of the CEO, it should be fair to remind the board that the community should be given all information to assess how effective the CEO is in implementing board policies.






Because performance evaluation is a story telling that attempts to draw out indicators of past performance factors to measure the success of future performance on a set of new tasks and job contents, we need to know what future CEO performance expectations the board will add on to the new CEO job description for the next evaluation period. We should not dismiss another important factor—that the CEO must demonstrate some degree of certainty his personal plans in facilitating coordination and teamwork with all elements of the hospital. Lastly, we should require the board to tell us what parameters it established for the CEO performance that will enable the board to retain, provide constructive feedback regarding the CEO professional and personal performance, and if necessary, quickly and appropriately terminate the CEO.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

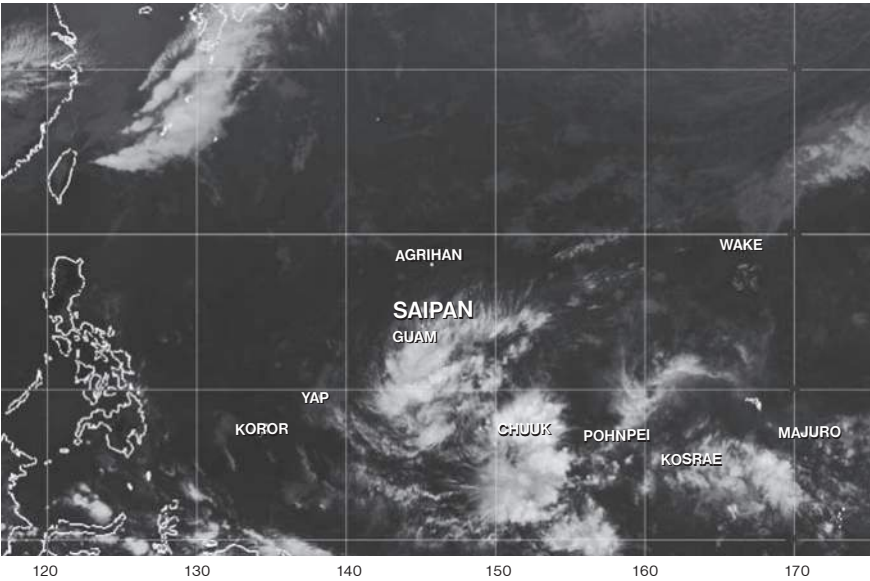
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲51 ▼31
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼70
London	Showers	▲40 ▼28
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼63
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼67
New York	Rain	▲44 ▼30
Osaka	Showers	▲61 ▼42
Paris	Showers	▲47 ▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲65 ▼38
Rome	Showers	▲56 ▼46
Salem	Rain	▲54 ▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲61 ▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲49 ▼28
Tokyo	Showers	▲62 ▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲55 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
12:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance associated with a trough of low pressure is located across the Marianas bringing scattered showers and some isolated thunderstorms from 8N to 14N between 142E and 147E. In addition, a line of scattered showers stretches from the trough and away from Saipan toward the northeast within 50 miles of 14N145E to 15N 153E. Farther to the south, the trough extends toward a broadly defined circulation centered near 2N150E. This is helping generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Chuuk Island and southward or from the equator to 8N between 150E and 156E. The equatorial trough west of this area remains along 2N, however it is currently not active. Trade-wind convergence in the ITCZ is generating scattered showers in the vicinity of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 4N162E to 4N170E and southeast of Majuro along a line from 6N176E to 4N180 well to the north of the Marianas. A shear line lingers from 22N153E to north of 25N172 bringing light scattered showers within 150 miles to north of the line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:31 AM	
Wednesday	12:19 PM	12:41 AM
Thursday	1:09 PM	1:28 AM
Friday	1:59 PM	2:13 AM
Saturday	2:50 PM	2:56 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-TINIAN FRE 101 6:45 6:55 Daily FRE 103 7:30 7:40 Daily FRE 105 8:00 8:10 Daily FRE 107 8:40 8:50 Daily FRE 109 9:10 9:20 Daily FRE 111 10:45 10:55 Daily	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

In China's shadow, Gitmo Uighurs languish in Palau

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KOROR, Palau (AP)—Ahmat Abdulahad can't help but laugh at the irony of his predicament.

He and five other Chinese Muslims released from America's Guantanamo military prison in 2009 thought they would be living on this remote island for a few months, maybe a year.

But more than three years later, they are still in Palau, and the patience—and funding of this poor nation—is running out. The government has cut Abdulahad's monthly stipend, so he can't pay his bills, not even those from the Palau Power Utility Corp., where he works as a night watchman. So he and his family, inadvertent inhabitants of one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific, are learning to make do without electricity.

Palau has become a prolonged stopover in what is now a 12-year odyssey for a half dozen men from China's ethnic Uighur minority. They were swept up in Afghanistan as suspected terrorists, held without trial in Guantanamo for more than eight years, then became a cause celebre for Guantanamo opponents in the U.S., who saw them as hapless victims of the anti-terrorism effort and the circumvention of due process in the name of national security.

Now, all but one of them—who quietly managed to make his way to Turkey to join his wife a few months ago—remain stuck on Palau because no one else will take them.

"We are like the pieces in a chess game," Abdulahad, who is 42, said at a small, drab apartment building by the sea where three of the men live with their wives and children. He wears a prosthetic limb because he lost part of his left leg in the air raid when he was captured. "They have played us like that all these years."

Both the men and Palau's president say pressure from China, which says they are ter-



In this photo taken on Feb. 9, 2013, former Guantanamo prisoners, from left, Ahmat Abdulahad, Davut Abdurahim and Abdulghappar Abdulrahman sit outside Abdulrahman's small apartment in Koror, Palau.

rorists despite their release, is making it impossible for them to find refuge anywhere else. And having met a U.S. federal court order to release them from Guantanamo, U.S. government interest in finding them a permanent home appears to have dried up—though officials say they are doing all they can.

"It's no secret China is very angry with Palau because of the resettlement," President Tommy Remengesau said in a recent interview with The Associated Press, one of his first since taking office in January. "It doesn't take a blind man not to notice that nobody wanted to take these men. The pressure was there from the beginning and the pressure continues to be there. Nobody will be open enough to say that they welcome the Uighurs because of that pressure."

China's Foreign Ministry and Public Security Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

The Uighurs come from Xinjiang, an isolated region of western China that borders Afghanistan, Pakistan and six Central Asian nations. They are Turkic-speaking Muslims who say they have long been repressed by the Chinese government. Many want Xinjiang to become independent, and in recent years, some have staged bombings and other attacks, mostly against police, government and military targets.

China considers Uighurs held in Guantanamo to be terrorists and has demanded they be repatriated. But since they would almost certainly face imprisonment or even torture if sent back to China, other countries had to be found. The U.S. refused to grant them asylum. Nearly a

dozen now live in Albania, Bermuda, El Salvador and Switzerland. Three remain in custody at the U.S. Navy facility in Cuba.

Palau, a country of 20,000 people that relies heavily on the United States for defense and aid, agreed to take six Uighurs on a temporary basis. The former U.S. trust territory, which became independent in 1994, didn't have much to lose. It is one of the few countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, instead of Beijing, and to sweeten the deal, Washington promised \$600,000 to help pay for the men's stay.

But Palau says it has done enough.

"The funds have run out. My government is not in a financial situation to deal with them here," Remengesau said. "Culturally it just doesn't fit. Their religion is different from 99 percent of the

people of Palau. It hasn't been an entirely stable situation for us. They're not happy. If they had their choice, they would rather be somewhere else."

Even Palau has felt Beijing's wrath, he said, noting that construction of a beachfront resort being developed by Chinese investors abruptly stopped as soon as the Uighur deal was announced. It is a major eyesore, boarded up and vacant, along the main street of Koror, Palau's biggest town, and just a short walk from a bustling hotel built by Taiwanese developers.

Former President Johnson Toribiong, who was voted out of office in November in part because of allegations that he misused the funds intended for the Uighurs, said he never intended for Palau to be a final destination.

"I assumed that I would be able

to take care of them and by the end of my term find them a permanent place to go to," he said.

Last month, Palau's government confirmed that one of the men, Adel Noori, had left the island. According to a local newspaper, Noori made his way to Turkey via Japan. Officials in Palau and Washington say they cannot comment because of security concerns.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said the United States is working diligently to seek permanent homes for the remaining Uighurs and is "coordinating closely with Palau on matters related to the remaining individuals temporarily resettled there."

But officials on Palau say they are not even sure who to contact in Washington. Special envoy Daniel Fried, who negotiated the Palau deal and was in charge of finding placements for cleared detainees at Guantanamo, was transferred to a new job in January. No replacement has been named, which has been widely seen as more evidence that President Obama's zeal to close Guantanamo—a major campaign promise before his election in 2008—has waned under congressional opposition.

"We need a timetable, and a plan of action. That's where the frustration comes," Remengesau said. "We are looking for a happy ending. These are human beings. They deserve respect."

For now, the five Uighur men eke by, most working as security guards and making about \$500 a month, which is about the poverty level even by Palauan standards. Prospective employers are reluctant to hire them, and if they speak English at all, it is mostly what they picked up in prison. The only other Muslims on Palau are a small number of Bangladeshis.

"When we were released we were very happy," said Abdulghappar Abdulrahman, another of the Uighurs. "But now it is like being in Guantanamo again."

Guam faces economic uncertainty as sequester lingers

By LAURA MATTHEWS
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

The U.S. territory of Guam, in the Mariana Islands, is 8,000 miles (13,000 km) away from Washington, D.C.

It's the farthest U.S. territory from the mainland, inhabited by just 160,000 people. Yet the tiny Pacific island is feeling, more than many states, the effect of sequestration, the automatic \$85 billion budget cuts that took effect on March 1.

That's because the heavily militarized island, home to a large Air Force base and other Navy and Marines facilities, and essential to America's strategic military realignment in the Asia-Pacific region, depends on the government for the vast majority of its economy.

Guam is a \$4.6 billion economy, according to 2010 data from Bureau of Economic Analysis. Two-third of it, or 2.9 billion, is government spending, mostly federal.

The island is still rebounding from a hit last year when its biggest economic drivers, the military and tourism, encountered major setbacks. The 2011 tsunami that struck Japan, where many tourists to Guam are from, sent the island's visitor arrival numbers down by 3 percent, according to a report by First Hawaiian Bank. And the past recession and present budget woes faced by the U.S. have stalled a military buildup that would have pumped billions into the local economy, created job opportunities and brought in new tax revenues.

Now, Congress' failure to pre-

vent the 2013 sequester that took effect March 1 could burden the cash-strapped local government, which is still struggling to pay millions in tax refunds. The cash crunch may also force the Defense Department to rethink a long-awaited, expensive Marine relocation from the Japanese island of Okinawa to Guam. The military is looking to relocate about 5,000 Marines to Guam, far fewer than the 8,600 initially planned.

"Clearly this year the sequester could slow down the economy and thus tourism," said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who specializes in defense and foreign policy. "Also it could affect military spending rates for operations. It could certainly affect base realignment and con-

struction plans."

"Any loss of federal funding will have a negative impact on an economy as small as Guam's compared to the states," said Troy Torres, director of communications at the Office of the Governor of Guam. "Unfortunately, we do not yet have a full picture of how sequestration will affect Guam. Gov. [Eddie] Calvo recently was in the nation's capital to get some answers. The federal government had answers for the states, but the insular areas were not given this same courtesy."

The sequester, a provision specified in the Budget Control Act of 2011, aims to reduce the nation's deficit by \$1.2 trillion in 10 years. It was meant to be a policy so unappealing that both Democrats and Republi-

cans would be forced to come to a budgetary agreement to stop it. But lawmakers let it happen anyway.

Before sequestration took effect, the White House released a state-by-state impact of the automatic spending cuts on jobs and the middle class, in an effort to increase public pressure on Congress to cut a deal. Hawaii, the closest state to Guam, for example, will lose about \$4.7 million in funding for education, putting teachers and aides at risk of losing jobs. Approximately 20,000 Defense Department employees in the state are set to be furloughed, leading to a total reduction of \$134 million in gross pay, according to the White House.

While Guam's leaders wait for such specifics, the Calvo ad-

ministration said Joint Region Marianas Commander, Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, has kept in contact and warned of potential local impacts.

"Joint Region Marianas is still considering several alternatives and their impacts and are diligently identifying areas where they and we can mitigate," said Mark Calvo, the governor's special assistant for military affairs and infrastructure.

Not everyone is completely in the dark.

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, or DPHSS, has already been informed that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which is commonly called food stamps, is exempt, as is the case on the mainland. And like in mainland states, the Women, Infants, and Children program could see

See GUAM on Next Page

KSM students win gold at Guam music fest

The whole Keynotes School of Music family led by its director, Mila Merjilla, congratulates Karon Onil Pagcu and Ericka Faye Tubera for winning gold at the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival held in Guam.

Pagcu won gold for playing guitar while Tubera won the top honor in singing. The two students competed under the tutelage of Keynotes School of Music.

Pagcu, a regular piano student at KSM for the past 32 months, is also a dedicated guitar student in the same school since May 2011. Seeing Pagcu's dedica-

tion and significant improvement in playing the guitar, teacher Ryan Isidro encouraged the 15-year-old MHS student to test her newly-earned skill at the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival. Pagcu easily convinced the judges to award her the gold for her acoustic interpretation of Isaac Alveniz' *Asturias*.

Tubera, on the other hand, bagged the gold honor with her rendition of the song *Better Days*, a Dianne Reeves' original of the jazz/soul genre. Tubera started piano lesson at KSM just last July 2011 under the able tutoring of

Dinah Medina. The 12-year-old student of Garapan Elementary School is also a singing talent known for her powerful voice. Tubera is by no means a newcomer to the island's musical scene, particularly in amateur singing contests. Among her successes include first place in the "Jolly Bee Singing Contest" in 2007 and Grand Champion of the 2008 Saipan Singing Superstar.

KSM likewise congratulates a former piano student for also winning gold at the 2013 TBMF: Great job Edward Minami! (KSM)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keynotes School of Music teachers pose with students who both won gold at the recent 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam. From left, teacher Ryan Isidro, Ericka Faye Tubera, Karon Onil Pagcu, and teacher Dinah Medina.

A Pacific-led vision for HIV and other STIs in the Pacific



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A lab technician takes blood for a rapid HIV test, Yap State Hospital Laboratory, Federated States of Micronesia.

SUVA, Fiji—This month Ministry of Health representatives and stakeholders from across the region will come together to determine the future direction of the response to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, STIs, in the Pacific.

"With the conclusion of the Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV and STIs this year, now is an opportune time to take stock of the progress made and decide how best to sustain achievements while identifying priority areas for continued donor support," said Dr Dennie Iniakwala, HIV and STI team leader at SPC.

"Here in the Pacific, we have some of the highest STI prevalence rates in the world. Our

people are therefore at greater risk of contracting HIV. We must not become complacent. We must endeavour to sustain and build on the progress made to date," said Dr Iniakwala.

To date, over AUD \$53 million has been delivered to the region for HIV and STI programming through the Pacific HIV and STI Response Fund and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This investment has led to improvements in the ability of Pacific Island countries and territories, PICTs, to address HIV and other STIs.

The introduction of rapid HIV confirmatory testing, for example, has greatly improved the turnaround time for HIV re-

sults, from 6 weeks to one day in many PICTs, and this has increased the number of people coming for HIV testing.

"These are important achievements. By increasing HIV test accessibility and testing the right population groups in our communities, we are better able to prevent and control HIV in our region," explained Tebuka Toatu, HIV and STI laboratory specialist at SPC.

"Previously, many laboratories had to send samples overseas for confirmation of HIV test results. However, with the introduction of rapid testing in 13 PICTs, national laboratories are now able to do their own testing, more reliably and efficiently, and patients receive greatly improved treatment," said Toatu.

Regional strategy review workshops titled "Making waves: Pacific-led strategy for HIV and other STIs," will be held with South Pacific and North Pacific HIV/STI and Reproductive Health Managers in Nadi and Guam on March 18-21 and March 25-28 respectively.

They will discuss the need for a renewed regional strategy to guide the response to HIV and other STIs in the region, together with regional partners and workshop hosts UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and SPC. Further consultation will then take place with civil society representatives and other stakeholders. (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTA meeting today

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Marianas High School PTA meeting today, March 19, at 6pm in the Dolphin Theater. The agenda includes performances by our award winning MHS students, campus beautification, graduation and other important matters affecting our school and our students. Come to the PTA meeting to have a voice in your student's education! (PR)

MHS calendar of events

- March 19: PTA meeting, 6pm at the Dolphin Theater
- March 21: Early dismissal at 12pm
- March 21: Graduating seniors, last day to pay for at least half of your cap and gown orders
- March 22: No classes; state level professional development
- March 25-29: Spring break (no classes)
- April 1: Students back to school

In addition, on a daily basis, students are encouraged to leave campus as soon as possible unless they are here for teacher-sanctioned activities such as club meetings, after-school class, and sports practice. For safety reasons, students

are not allowed to hang out on campus after 4:30pm.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The guest speakers are former first lady Grace Tenorio and Nola Hix, MMAC survivors subcommittee chairs. To RSVP or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

KHS senior parents' meeting

Kagman High School will be hosting a Senior Parents' Meeting on March 18, 2013, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the KHS cafeteria. Agenda will include graduation details, grad-pack ordering & payments, portfolios, senior evaluations, and Q&A. (PR)

GUAM

From Page 13

some impact.

The National WIC Association has estimated that approximately 600,000 participants would be cut from the program this year because of sequestration. By the association's estimate the law would cut about 500 caseloads in Guam. Overall, these reductions will lead to fewer participants being served and longer wait times for appointments, according to information released by the national agency.

"The Division of Public Welfare was informed that if sequestration were to be in effect, all federal programs, including the Childcare Care Development Fund program, would be affected with an estimated reduction of 7.8 percent," said Bertha Tajeron, program coordinator at Guam DPHSS.

As for the military on Guam, sequestration could lead to the closing of Naval Base Guam's back gate and Naval Hospital Guest/Visitor Pass Center.

"Discussions between the commander and the governor on other impacts being evaluated include an agreement to assist in covering gaps in existing mutual aid services," Mark Calvo said, noting that details will be released days and weeks ahead.

Naval Base Guam has a mutual aid agreement with Guam Fire Department that keeps emergency services available at all times. This helps the local government, which at times has an ambulance shortage, respond to emergencies that exceed local resources.

According to the U.S. Navy's website, Naval Base Guam responded to more than 150 medical mutual aids last year.

"We have only begun to assess the implications of seques-

tration and the continuing resolution," said Lt. Matt Knight, the public affairs officer for Joint Region Marianas. "However, we cannot specify the potential impact of these actions to Guam at this time."

Knight said there has been no official furlough notification as yet or a length of time. If furloughs are to be implemented it would require giving employees a 30-day notice. He added that the Defense Department is planning to implement furloughs across the department that may be as much as 176 hours (or 22 workdays) until the end of the fiscal year.

"Guam is climbing out of a financial abyss we've been wallowing in for two decades," Torres said. "Our economy has been relatively stable, and we need to continue seeing growth on top of stability. The problems in the federal government, if they affect Guam, will be an unnecessary burden."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Frankie Camacho who is celebrating his special day today! Oh my Gawd...may you have a wonderful and fabulous time. God bless and we love you honey boo-boo! Greetings coming out from your family and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 20th Birthday Joseph!!! Hope you have a wonderful year ahead filled with love, happiness and good health. From: Mama and Papa



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 28th birthday to Joe Cruz, who is celebrating his birthday today, March 19! May your day be filled with more joy and laughter that you already bring into our lives. Greetings coming out from your son Kiku, Francine, Cruz and Camacho family.

Business

Justice official to be nominated to top Labor slot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seeking to fill yet another second-term Cabinet vacancy, President Barack Obama on Monday will nominate Thomas Perez, an assistant attorney general, to be the next secretary of labor, the White House says.

If confirmed by the Senate, Perez, who has been head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division for 3 1/2 years, would take over the Labor Department as Obama undertakes several worker-oriented initiatives, including an overhaul of immigration laws and an increase in the minimum wage.

Before taking the job as assistant attorney general, Perez was secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which enforces state consumer rights, workplace safety and wage and hour laws.



Perez

In choosing the 51-year-old Perez, the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Obama would be placing an already high-ranking Hispanic official in a Cabinet slot. Perez, a lawyer with a degree from Harvard Law School, would replace Hilda Solis, a former California congresswoman and the nation's first Hispanic labor secretary.

Perez's nomination has been expected for weeks, and comes with vigorous support from labor unions and Latino groups.

But a newly released report by the Justice Department's inspector general is likely to provide fodder for Republicans who say the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has been too politicized.

The report, released last week, said Perez gave incom-

plete testimony to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights when he said the department's political leadership was not involved in the decision to dismiss three of the four defendants in a lawsuit the Bush administration brought against the New Black Panther Party.

The report also concluded that Perez did not intentionally mislead the commission and that the department acted properly.

Republican Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa said Perez appeared to be "woefully unprepared to answer questions" from the Civil Rights Commission.

Lynn Rhinehart, general counsel at the AFL-CIO, said the report shows that Perez, who was first hired by the civil rights division as a career attorney under President George H.W. Bush, restored integrity to the voting rights program at the Justice Department.

Cyprus president tries to amend bailout plan

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus' president said Sunday that he is trying to amend a key provision of an unpopular eurozone bailout plan that would tax deposits in the country's banks to reduce its effect on small savers.

But in a nationally televised speech, President Nicos Anastasiades also urged lawmakers to approve the tax in a vote Monday, saying it is essential to save the country from bankruptcy.

About 25 lawmakers from the communist-rooted AKEL party, the socialist EDEK and the Greens said they won't vote for the tax in the 56-seat Cypriot parliament amid deep resentment over a move some called disastrous. If Parliament rejects the tax, that would put the entire aid package in jeopardy.

The vote was initially set for Sunday but was postponed until Monday—a national holiday in Cyprus. On Saturday frightened savers rushed to automated

teller machines to withdraw as much of their cash as they could. Cypriot officials have expressed fears of a fully-fledged bank run once lenders reopen their doors on Tuesday.

The announcement of the vote postponement set off an immediate scramble among top European financial officials. One lawmaker told The Associated Press that European Central Bank was pressuring Cypriot authorities to hold the vote without delay.

"I completely share the unpleasant sentiment that this difficult and onerous decision has caused," Anastasiades said. "That's why I continue to give battle so that the decisions of the eurozone are amended in the next hours to limit the effect on small depositors."

In exchange for (EURO)10 billion (\$13 billion) in rescue money, creditors would impose a one-time tax of 6.75 per-

cent on all bank deposits under (EURO)100,000 (\$131,000) and 9.9 percent over that amount.

A senior government official said it wants to reduce the tax on bank deposits under (EURO)100,000, with a corresponding increase in the tax on deposits over that amount. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

The deposit tax is part of a bailout agreement reached early Saturday after talks by finance ministers from euro countries and representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.

The Cypriot bailout follows those for Greece, Portugal, Ireland and the Spanish banking sector, and it is the first one that dips into people's savings to finance a bailout. Analysts worry the move could roil international markets and jeopardize Europe's fragile economies.

China's new premier rejects US hacking claims

BEIJING (AP)—New Chinese Premier Li Keqiang dismissed hacking accusations against China as "groundless" on Sunday and said his government was committed to strong ties with Washington.

Referring to allegations that China's military was behind massive hacking attacks on U.S. entities, Li reiterated Beijing's statements that China is a major target of global hackers and opposes all such criminal activity.

"I think we should not make groundless accusations against each other but spend more time doing practical things that will contribute to cybersecurity," Li said in his first news conference in his new role.

Li is the highest-ranking of-

ficial to comment on the hacking claims made by U.S. cybersecurity firm Mandiant that provided a detailed picture of alleged cyberspying carried out by a People's Liberation Army unit based in Shanghai.

Li said that despite their differences, conflict between the world's largest and second-largest economies is not inevitable as long as the countries respect each other's major concerns and manage their differences.

China's new leaders "attach great importance" to relations that meet the "fundamental interests of people in both countries and serves the global trend of peace and development," Li told reporters at the traditional premier's news conference that

follows the close of the annual legislative session.

China-U.S. ties have weathered a series of crises over the past year over dissidents, Chinese trade practices, opposition to Chinese investment in the U.S. and—most recently—hacking accusations. While basically stable, political ties are seen as lagging behind the economic relationship, with two-way trade hitting almost \$500 billion last year, and China's new president, Xi Jinping, isn't expected to meet President Barack Obama until an economic summit in Russia in September.

Following Xi's elevation, Li was appointed premier last week, with running China's economy his main responsibility.

Nation

2 killed when jet crashes in Indiana neighborhood

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—A private jet apparently experiencing mechanical trouble crashed Sunday in a northern Indiana neighborhood, hitting three homes and killing two people aboard the plane, authorities said.

The crash injured two other people aboard the Beechcraft Premier I twin-jet and one person on the ground, South Bend Assistant Fire Chief John Corthier said late Sunday. Corthier

said officials believe everyone connected with the damaged homes had been accounted for and there were no known missing people.

The jet had left Tulsa, Okla.'s Riverside Airport and crashed late Sunday afternoon near South Bend Regional Airport, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roland Herwig in Oklahoma City said.

South Bend Memorial Hospital spokeswoman Maggie

Scroope said three people injured in the crashed were being treated there; one was in serious condition and two were in fair condition.

The plane was registered to 7700 Enterprises of Montana LLC in Helena, Mont. The company is owned by Wes Caves and does business as DigiCut Systems in Tulsa, Okla. It makes window film and paint overlay for automobiles.



The front end of a Hawker Beachcraft Premier jet sits in a room of a home on Iowa Street in South Bend, Ind., Sunday, March 17, 2013.

2 Ohio football players convicted of raping girl

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Two members of Steubenville's celebrated high school football team were found guilty Sunday of raping a drunken 16-year-old girl, and Ohio's attorney general warned the case isn't over, saying he is investigating whether coaches, parents and other students broke the law, too.

Trent Mays, 17, and Ma'Lik Richmond, 16, were sentenced to at least a year in juvenile prison in a case that has rocked this Rust Belt city of 18,000 and led to allegations of a

cover-up to protect the Steubenville High team, which has won nine state championships. Mays was ordered to serve an additional year for photographing the underage girl naked.

They can be held until they turn 21.

The two broke down in tears after a Juvenile Court judge delivered his verdict. They later apologized to the victim and the community, Richmond struggling to speak through his sobs.

"My life is over," he said as he collapsed in the arms of his lawyer.

The crime, which took place after a party last summer, shocked many in Steubenville because of the seeming callousness with which other students took out their cellphones to record the attack and gossiped about it online. In fact, the case came to light via a barrage of morning-after text messages, social media posts and online photos and video.

"Many of the things we learned during this trial that our children were saying and doing were profane, were ugly," Judge Thomas Lipps said.



ACROSS THE NATION

Sheriff: Race crash victim was driver's cousin

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California raceway crash killed a race car owner and the young cousin of the teenage driver whose vehicle careened off the track before it struck the two victims, authorities said Sunday. Dale Wondergem Jr., 68, and Marcus Johnson, 14, were in the pit area when they were hit about 6 p.m. Saturday at the Marysville Raceway Park, about 40 miles north of Sacramento, according to the Yuba County Sheriff's Department. Wondergem, of Grass Valley, was pronounced dead at the scene, and Marcus Johnson, of Santa Rosa, was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at a hospital, authorities said. Marcus Johnson was identified by authorities as the cousin of 17-year-old driver Chase Johnson, who was not injured in the collision. The younger victim was not an official member of his cousin's crew. Authorities

are investigating why he was in the pit area, according to Undersheriff Jerry Read said.

Bills seek end to farm animal abuse videos

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—An undercover video that showed California cows struggling to stand as they were prodded to slaughter by forklifts led to the largest meat recall in U.S. history. In Vermont, a video of veal calves skinned alive and tossed like sacks of potatoes ended with the plant's closure and criminal convictions. Now in a pushback led by the meat and poultry industries, state legislators across the country are introducing laws making it harder for animal welfare advocates to investigate cruelty and food safety cases. Some bills make it illegal to take photographs at a farming operation. Others make it a crime for someone such as an animal welfare advocate to lie on an application to get a job at a plant.

Asia

Indian police say 5 admit to raping Swiss tourist

NEW DELHI (AP)—Five men have been arrested and have confessed to raping a Swiss woman who was attacked in central India while on a cycling vacation with her husband, police said.

Two other suspects are being sought, said D. K. Arya, a senior police officer. The five men arrested in Datia on Sunday are from villages near where the attack occurred Friday night as the Swiss couple camped in a forest in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh state.

The couple told police that the woman had been raped by seven or eight men, but that it was dark and they could not be sure of the exact number, Arya said. They said the husband also was attacked by the men.

The woman, 39, was treated Saturday at a hospital in the nearby city of Gwalior and was released later that day, police said. Arya said the couple was heading to the Indian capital of New Delhi, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) to the north, later Sunday.

The attack was front-page news in Indian newspapers and happened three months after

the fatal gang rape of a woman aboard a New Delhi bus, an attack that spurred outrage over the treatment of women in Indian society and the country's justice system.

Prior to the attack, the Swiss tourists, who were on a three-month visit, had visited the temple town of Orchha and were planning to cycle to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, nearly 210 kilometers (130 miles) away.

They set out from Orchha on Friday and pitched their tent in a forest near Jatia village when they were attacked by men armed with sticks, police said.

The men beat up the husband, tied him to a tree and then raped the woman, police said. They also stole the couple's cellphone, laptop computer and 10,000 rupees (\$185). Police said they recovered the laptop and phone from one of the men who was arrested.

The Swiss ambassador in India, Linus von Castelmur, said he spoke with the couple and assured them of the Swiss government's help and support.

"Their health and treatment is the priority of the moment," the Swiss Embas-

sy said in a statement.

The embassy said it has urged a "swift investigation and for justice to be done."

Figures from India's National Crime Records Bureau show that a woman is raped every 20 minutes in India. However, many incidents of rape and other sexual crimes go unreported due to the stigma attached to such crimes in the conservative country. India's conviction rate for rapes and other crimes against women is among the lowest in the world.

Last month, the Swiss government issued a travel notice for India that included a warning about "increasing numbers of rapes and other sexual offenses" in the South Asian nation, and the latest incident could prompt other countries to issue similar warnings.

Travel industry representatives in India said the attack, coming so soon after the December gang rape in New Delhi, would affect tourism.

"Such incidents will definitely have a negative impact on tourism. It is very unfortunate," said Subhash Goyal, head of the Indian Association of Tour Operators.

China becomes world's fifth largest arms exporter

STOCKHOLM (AP)—China has bypassed Britain as the world's fifth largest arms exporter, a Swedish think tank said Monday.

The volume of Chinese weapons exports rose by 162 percent in the five years 2008-2012, compared to the previous five-year period, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in its report. That means China's share of all international arms exports increased to 5 percent from 2 percent, and the country climbed to fifth from eighth in the rankings.

The largest buyer of Chinese weapons was Pakistan, which accounted for 55 percent of the country's exports, followed by Myanmar with 8 percent and Bangladesh with 7 percent, SIPRI said.

"China's rise has been driv-

en primarily by large-scale arms acquisitions by Pakistan," said Paul Holtom, director of the SIPRI Arms Transfers Programme. "However, a number of recent deals indicate that China is establishing itself as a significant arms supplier to a growing number of important recipient states."

Such deals include the sale of three frigates to Algeria, eight transport aircraft to Venezuela and 54 tanks to Morocco, SIPRI said.

The U.S. remains the world's top arms exporter during the 2008-2012 period, with 30 percent of the global volume. Russia is second with 26 percent, Germany third with 7 percent, and France fourth with 6 percent, SIPRI said.

China's move into the top-five means Britain (now in sixth

place) dropped off the list of the top five for the first time since at least 1950, the earliest year covered by SIPRI data.

The institute said Asia dominated the global imports of weapons, with the top five importers all located in that region.

Here's SIPRI's list of the top 5 arms exporters in 2008-2012 (share of international exports in parenthesis):

1. United States (30 percent).
2. Russia (26).
3. Germany (7).
4. France (6).
5. China (5).

The top 5 arms importers in 2008-2012 (share of international imports in parenthesis):

1. India (12 percent).
2. China (6).
3. Pakistan (5).
4. South Korea (5).
5. Singapore (4).

himself on fire inside a western Chinese monastery recently singled out by authorities as a hub of the grisly self-immolation protests striking the region, reports said Sunday. U.S.-backed broadcaster Radio Free Asia said Lobsang Thokmey, 28, was the 108th Tibetan to self-immolate in a string of protests against Chinese rule and religious restrictions starting in February 2009. His protest took place on the fifth anniversary of a 2008 government crackdown in the area in which police fired into a crowd, allegedly killing 10 people. The monk set himself on fire Saturday inside his room in Kirti monastery in Sichuan province's mountainous Aba county, RFA said. Carrying a Tibetan Buddhist prayer flag, he ran toward the monastery entrance before collapsing and was rushed to hospital where he died, the report said.

World

Syria opposition to set up interim government

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's main opposition group is launching its most serious attempt yet to form a rival government to President Bashar Assad's regime, convening in Turkey on Monday to choose an interim prime minister for areas the rebels control.

Twelve candidates are running, including economists, businessmen and a former Syrian Cabinet minister.

Some warn setting up such a government could close the door to negotiating

an end to Syria's civil war and instead harden the battle lines even more.

Another obstacle is asserting the authority of a government picked by the largely exile-based opposition, especially in areas where Islamic extremist militias dominate.

The opposition Syrian National Coalition needs to take the reins in increasingly chaotic rebel-held areas where many services have broken down, but doing so means taking a political risk, said

University of Oklahoma professor Joshua Landis.

"Obviously (the opposition) has been very frightened of trying, because it does not have a real social base on the ground, and it is worried that if it fails, it will get egg on its face," said Landis, who runs a blog called Syria Comment.

The deadlocked Syria conflict, which has claimed 70,000 lives and displaced about 4 million people, entered its third year this weekend.



AP

In this citizen journalism image provided by Aleppo Media Center AMC which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, anti-Syrian regime protesters raise up their hands as they wave Syrian revolutionary flags during a protest to mark the second anniversary of the their uprising, in Aleppo, Syria, Friday March 15, 2013.

Palestinian ends hunger strike in deal

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip (AP)—A freed Palestinian prisoner was given a hero's welcome in the Gaza Strip on Sunday evening after ending his hunger strike in an Israeli jail and agreeing to a plea bargain that will confine him to the Hamas-run territory for the next 10 years.

After his release from Israeli custody, Ayman Sharawneh arrived at the Erez Crossing in an ambulance with its siren blaring and red lights flashing as

dozens of TV cameramen and photographers precariously gathered around the vehicle as it crossed into Gaza. Dozens of Palestinians waved national flags and chanted slogans calling for freedom.

Sharawneh, 53, appeared weak, shaky and shrunken, and was taken to a hospital in Gaza City.

Sharawneh, a resident of the West Bank, had been refusing food since last July to protest his incarceration. His

lawyer, Jawad Bulous, said Sharawneh accepted the offer of confinement to Gaza, fearing he would be sent to prison for decades in a military court hearing set for Monday.

"The occupation committed two crimes," Sharawneh said, referring to Israel. "Arresting me, and then keeping me away from my family. But in Gaza, I am also with my family," he said, his voice croaking as he spoke from his hospital bed.

Pope wades into crowds, surprising onlookers

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Walking up to crowds, shaking hands with surprised bystanders in the street, mixing his formal speeches with off-the-cuff remarks, Pope Francis stamped his own style on the papacy Sunday.

His humor and down-to-earth manner captivated those filling St. Peter's Square in Rome to overflowing, and he worked the crowd in a way that had to give his security staff palpitations. Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno, in the square himself, estimated the crowd's size at 300,000.

"Brothers and sisters, 'Buon giorno,'" Francis said in Italian in his first welcome from the window of the papal residence, setting an informal tone that has become the defining spirit of his young papacy.

Earlier Sunday, he made an impromptu appearance before the public from a side gate of the Vatican that startled passers-by and prompted cheers as he shook hands and kissed babies. Francis had just finished celebrating Mass and delivering a six-minute homily—brief by church standards—in the Vatican's tiny parish church,

St. Anna, when he walked outside to greet parishioners one by one, just as an ordinary pastor does after weekly services.

Francis started speaking at the window even before the stroke of noon—the appointed time for the weekly papal address. The windows of the papal study in the Apostolic Palace were opened for the first time since Francis' predecessor, Benedict XVI, gave his last Sunday blessing on Feb. 24. Four days later, Benedict went into retirement, the first pontiff to do so in nearly 600 years.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Blasts, arrests mark Bangladesh general strike

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Activists in Bangladesh's capital have detonated several home-made bombs and torched at least one bus during an opposition-sponsored general strike. No injuries have been reported. The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its 17 partners were enforcing Monday's shutdown, which is aimed at securing the release of 154 opposition leaders and activists detained this month. Those detained are facing charges of attacking police and creating chaos during an anti-government rally on March 11.

Tibetan monk self-immolates inside China temple

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan Buddhist monk set

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Welcome to the new off-white America. A historic decline in the number of U.S. whites and the fast growth of Latinos are blurring traditional black-white color lines, testing the limits of civil rights laws and reshaping political alliances as “whiteness” begins to lose its numerical dominance.

Long in coming, the demographic shift was most vividly illustrated in last November’s re-election of President Barack Obama, the first black president, despite a historically low percentage of white supporters.

It’s now a potent backdrop to the immigration issue being debated in Congress that could offer a path to citizenship for 11 million mostly Hispanic illegal immigrants. Also, the Supreme Court is deciding cases this term on affirmative action and voting rights that could redefine race and equality in the U.S.

The latest census data and polling from The Associated Press highlight the historic change in a nation in which non-Hispanic whites will lose their majority in the next generation, somewhere around the year 2043.

Despite being a nation of immigrants, America’s tip to a white minority has never occurred in its 237-year history and will be a first among the world’s major post-industrial societies. Brazil, a developing nation, has crossed the threshold to “majority-minority” status; a few cities in France and England are near, if not past that point.

The international experience and recent U.S. events point to an uncertain future for American race relations.

In Brazil, where multiracialism is celebrated, social mobility remains among the world’s lowest for blacks while wealth is concentrated among whites at the top. In France, race is not recorded on government census forms and people share a unified Gallic identity, yet high levels of racial discrimination persist.

“The American experience has always been a story of color. In the 20th century it was a story of the black-white line. In the 21st century we are moving into a new off-white moment,” says Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, a global expert on immigration and dean of UCLA’s Graduate School of Education & Information Studies.

“Numerically, the U.S. is being transformed. The question now is whether our institutions are being transformed,” he said.

The shift is being driven by the modern wave of U.S. newcomers from Latin America and Asia. Their annual inflow



In this photo taken March 13, 2013, pedestrians wait to cross a New York street. An historic decline in the number of U.S. whites and the fast growth of Latinos are blurring traditional black-white color lines in the U.S.

Rise of Latino population blurs US racial lines

By HOPE YEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

of 650,000 people since 1965, at a rate that’s grown in recent years, surpasses the pace of the last great immigration wave a century ago. That influx, from 1820 to 1920, brought in Irish, Germans, Italians and Jews from Europe and made the gateway of Ellis Island, N.Y., an immigrant landmark, symbolizing freedom, liberty and the American dream.

An equal factor is today’s aging white population, mostly baby boomers, whose coming wave of retirements will create a need for first- and second-generation immigrants to help take their place in the workforce.

The numbers already demonstrate that being white is fading as a test of American-ness:

■ More U.S. babies are now born to minorities than whites, a milestone reached last year.

■ More than 45 percent of students in kindergarten through 12th grade are minorities. The Census Bureau projects that in five years the number of non-white children will surpass 50 percent.

■ The District of Columbia, Hawaii, California, New Mexico and Texas have minority populations greater than 50 percent. By 2020, eight more

states are projected to join the list: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey and New York. Latinos already outnumber whites in New Mexico; California will tip to a Latino plurality next year.

■ By 2039, racial and ethnic minorities will make up a majority of the U.S. working-age population, helping to support a disproportionately elderly white population through Social Security and other payroll taxes. More than 1 in 4 people ages 18-64 will be Latino.

■ The white population, now at 197.8 million, is projected to peak at 200 million in 2024, before entering a steady decline in absolute numbers. Currently, 63 percent of the U.S. population, the white share is expected to drop below 50 percent by 2043, when racial and ethnic minorities will collectively become a U.S. majority. Hispanics will drive most of the minority growth, due mostly to high birth rates, jumping in share from 17 percent to 26 percent.

The pace of assimilation for today’s Latinos and Asian-Americans is often compared with that of the Poles, Irish, Italians and Jews who arrived around the turn of the 20th cen-

tury and eventually merged into an American white mainstream.

There was a backlash. By the 1930s, an immigrant-weary America had imposed strict quotas and closed its borders. Those newly arrived were pushed to conform and blend in with a white mainstream, benefiting from New Deal economic programs that generally excluded blacks. The immigration quotas also cut off the supply of new workers to ethnic enclaves and reduced social and economic contacts between immigrants and their countries of origin.

“America of the Melting Pot comes to End,” read a 1924 opinion headline in The New York Times. The author, a U.S. senator, pledged that strict new immigration quotas would “preserve racial type as it exists here today.”

Today, data show that Latinos are embracing U.S. life but also maintaining strong ties to their heritage, aided by a new stream of foreign-born immigrants who arrive each year. Hispanics, officially an ethnic group, strive to learn English and 1 in 4 intermarry, taking a white spouse.

Nowadays, immigrants face less pressure to conform than did their counterparts from a

century ago. Latinos are protected as a minority, benefiting from the 1950s civil rights movement pioneered by blacks. Nearly 40 percent of Latinos now resist a white identity on census forms, checking a box indicating “some other race” to establish a Hispanic race identity.

While growing diversity is often a step toward a post-racial U.S., sociologists caution that the politics of racial diversity could just as easily become more magnified.

A first-of-its-kind AP poll conducted in 2011 found that a slight majority of whites expressed racial bias against Hispanics and that their attitudes were similar to or even greater than the bias they held toward blacks. Hispanics also remained somewhat residentially segregated from whites in lower-income neighborhoods, hurt in part by the disappearance of good-paying, midskill manufacturing jobs that helped white ethnics rise into the middle class during most of the 20th century.

The AP survey was conducted with researchers from Stanford University, the University of Michigan and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Harvard economist George

Borjas projects that by 2030, the children of today’s immigrants will earn on average 10 percent to 15 percent less than nonimmigrant Americans, based on past trends, and that Latinos will particularly struggle because of high rates of poverty, lack of citizenship and lower rates of education. In 1940, the children of early 20th-century white ethnics fared much better on average, earning 21.4 percent more than nonimmigrants.

About 35 percent of Hispanic babies are currently born into poverty, compared with 41 percent of blacks and 20 percent for whites.

“How America responds now to the new challenges of racial and ethnic diversity will determine whether it becomes a more open and inclusive society in the future - one that provides equal opportunities and justice for all,” said Daniel Lichter, a Cornell sociologist and past president of the Population Association of America.

The demographic shift has spurred debate as to whether some civil-rights era programs, such as affirmative action in college admissions, should begin to focus on income level rather than race or ethnicity. The Supreme Court will rule on the issue by late June.

Following a racially lopsided re-election, Obama has spoken broadly about promoting social and economic opportunity. In his State of the Union speech, he said that rebuilding the middle class is “our generation’s task.” Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a rising star of a mostly white Republican party now eager to attract Latino voters, is courting supporters in both English and Spanish in part by pledging programs that would boost “social mobility.”

Left unclear is how much of a role government can or should play in lifting the disadvantaged in an era of strapped federal budgets and rising debt.

The Latino immigrants include Irma Guereque, 60, of Las Vegas, who says enjoying a middle-class life is what’s most important to her.

Things turned bad for the Mexico native in the recent recession after her work hours as a food server were cut at the Texas Station casino off the Strip. As a result, she couldn’t make the mortgage payments on a spacious house she purchased and was forced to move into an apartment with her grandchildren.

While she’s getting almost full-time hours now, money is often on her mind. Her finances mean retirement is hardly an option, even though she’s got diabetes and is getting older.

Many politicians are “only thinking of the rich, and not the poor, and that’s not right,” Guereque said in Spanish. “We need opportunities for everyone.”

Overdrive

With Forte, Kia gets even better at Honda's game

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

After driving the 2014 Kia Forte, I exited the car with one overriding thought: Honda should watch its back. For the fifth model year of its popular compact sedan, the Korean automaker is seriously upping its game, offering luxury-level amenities at what is likely to be a bargain-basement price.

Like the 2013 Honda Civic, the 2014 Forte now includes Bluetooth, steering wheel controls and a backup camera as standard equipment. But what's more impressive is the many amenities it offers as options, including a heated steering wheel,

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Kia Forte EX:

- Powertrain: Direct-injection, 2.0-liter, inline 4-cylinder, DOHC, continuously variable valve timing, 6-speed automatic
- Horsepower: 173 at 6,500 rpm
- Torque: 154 at 4,700 rpm
- Curb weight: 2,857 lbs.
- Test drive mpg: 33.6 combined
- Base price: Not yet announced

seats that are cooled as well as heated and engine start-stop technology, among others.

Clearly, Kia is determined to shed its rep as the maker of unrefined econo cars by offering features ordinarily associated with higher-end nameplates. How much all the goodies will cost is an open question. Kia hasn't yet announced pricing for the 2014 Forte, but it expects the sedan to start around \$16,000 with a well-equipped model costing about \$18,000.

Designed at Kia's American Design Center in Irvine, Calif.,



The 2014 Kia Forte receives its first complete update since the model's introduction in 2009.

KIA/MCT

the new Forte is marginally longer, lower and wider than the outgoing model for a sportier stance. Its exterior design has also been tweaked with a more windswept body shape and steeped windshield to create the illusion, on first glance, that the Forte just might be European rather than Asian.

Entering the car, I was greeted with electronic spa music that seemed to say, "Welcome to the future of Kia." Indeed. The interior was spacious and quite deluxe, with perforated leather seats and a curvaceous dash trimmed with can't-go-wrong black and faux carbon fiber. As in the Civic, the center stack is angled toward the driver.

In addition to a midsize touch screen that operates the stereo, navigation, Bluetooth and other controls, the Forte can be had with an optional 4-inch LCD screen nestled between the speedometer and tachometer that toggles between various graphics. When the car is likely to come into contact with an unwanted object, its collision avoidance system not only beeps, it shows the area of the car that's in danger.

The same screen also displays an instant fuel economy bar graph that serves as a coaching mechanism to improve the car's fuel economy based on driver inputs. Kia hasn't yet released anticipated fuel economy figures,

but I averaged 33.6 mpg. The outgoing model with the same powertrain had a combined EPA fuel economy rating of 29.

Available in two trims, the base model LX is powered with a 1.8-liter inline four-cylinder engine. The EX I was testing uses a direct-injected 2.0-liter inline four with continuously variable valve timing and a six-speed automatic transmission, which is where this car's price point becomes more apparent. Its acceleration is ample, but it isn't particularly smooth.

For the Forte's first complete update since its introduction in 2009, Kia has ditched the hydraulic steering of prior model years in favor of the lighter feel

of electronic power steering. An optional Flex Steer system allows drivers to choose between three different steering modes that impact steering feel.

My biggest issue with the Forte, however, is the same bugaboo as most cars of mod-

est means: Road noise. Baffle it, and prospective buyers who might not have considered Kia previously could very well have a similar reaction to mine: I can't believe it's a Kia.

Perhaps that should be Kia's new tagline.

Look to gaskets for cause of coolant loss

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2001 Ford Taurus with the 3.0-liter V-6. It seems to be losing engine coolant but I never see any on the ground after I park it. I added 1 gallon of coolant on Nov. 10 and another gallon on Dec. 18. Now I need to add more. Any ideas?

ANSWER: Anytime an engine loses a significant amount of coolant without leaving any evidence of leakage on the pavement under the car, a failed intake manifold gasket or cylinder head-gasket is suspect. Check the oil dipstick for signs of coolant getting into the engine oil—a higher-than-normal reading, a milky buildup on the dipstick or the smell of antifreeze can indicate a problem.

If the oil is clean, it's very possible the coolant is being drawn into the combustion chambers and vaporized. Sometimes, a trail of white smoke indicates coolant consumption, but at this time of year, normal condensation in the exhaust can mask the coolant smoke.

The simple do-it-yourself test is to check for excess bubbling in the coolant. With the engine dead cold, remove the radiator cap and start the engine. Exhaust gases forced into the coolant from a head-gasket leak can create excessive bubbling in the coolant, potentially pushing coolant out of the cold radiator.

The two most common professional tests for head gasket failure are a cooling system pressure test to determine if the sealed and pressurized cooling system is holding proper pressure after shutdown, and a litmus-type test of the coolant to determine if hydrocarbon (combustion) molecules are present.

■■■

Q: We have a 2012 Ford F-350 4x4 truck we bought new in October 2011. In February, the radiator had to be replaced due to leaks at the seams. Why would a truck with under 50,000 miles have a radiator that leaks at the seams? It cost us \$1,200 to replace as the dealer said it was not covered under the factory warranty or the extended warranty we purchased when we bought the truck. We are disappointed truck owners.

A: I would be, too. The ba-

sic 2012 Ford new car warranty covers most everything but wear items for three years/36,000 miles. On top of that, the drivetrain is covered for five years/60,000 miles. If the radiator in your truck failed after 36,000 miles, it would not be covered by the new car warranty or the drivetrain warranty.

I don't know which extended service plan you purchased, but of the four extended service plans offered by Ford, the top two plans—Premium Care and Extra Care—do cover the radiator. Ford's ESP Basic Care and Powertrain Care service contracts do not.

Assuming the radiator was not covered by warranty, I would not hesitate to ask the Ford dealer to ask Ford to help with this repair with a customer "goodwill" adjustment for all or part of the cost. In my opinion, a radiator should not develop seam leaks at this low age and mileage.

■■■

Q: Ever since I had my 2006 Jeep Liberty in for a diagnostic test, I've been unable to fill up my gas tank without having to trickle in the gas. The pump clicks off right away like the tank is full. There's a lot of pressure released when I first take the cap off. Any ideas?

A: My Alldata automotive database pulled up Chrysler TSB 14-001-09, dated September 2009, that outlines a series of tests to determine where the restriction causing slow refueling is located. Since you indicate that significant pressure is released when the fuel cap is removed, the charcoal canister or its control valve are suspect. Other components of the evaporative control (EVAP) system that could contribute to this problem are the vapor recirculation tube and the fuel filler tube.

Plugging a scan tool into the vehicle's diagnostic link should not affect any part of the EVAP system.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com.

2012 cars will set new mpg record

By RONALD D. WHITE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Environmental Protection Agency says that model year 2012 cars and trucks will have the highest ever real-world average fuel economy at about 23.8 miles per gallon.

That would be 1.2 mpg higher than the previous peak set in 2010. In 2011, when U.S. gasoline prices averaged a then-record \$3.53 for a gallon of regular, the mpg numbers fell.

The EPA says that mileage fell by 0.2 mpg in 2011, in part because of the effects of the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power disasters in Japan.

The disasters reduced pro-

duction by Honda and Toyota, leaving car buyers with fewer options for gas-saving models that year.

While there was good news about the improvement in model 2012 cars, some observers said it painted a less-than-flattering portrait of U.S. automakers.

"Because American car makers weren't doing their share, when natural disaster curtailed Japan's auto production, our overall fuel efficiency faltered," said Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Campaign at the Center for Auto Safety.

"This is a stark demonstration that despite GM's and Chrysler's claims, they still are not pulling their weight," Becker

added. "They need better aerodynamics, better transmissions, better engines. This is not rocket science. It's auto mechanics."

Higher-mileage vehicles will be a welcome relief to many Americans. In 2012, the U.S. set another record with an average gallon of gasoline costing \$3.63, the Energy Department said.

The agency predicted this week that gasoline prices should fall in 2013 and 2014, but not by much.

The Energy Department's short-term energy outlook says that gasoline prices will average \$3.55 a gallon in 2013 and \$3.38 a gallon in 2014.

But what the Energy De-

partment can't predict are unexpected refinery outages or storm damage to the nation's petroleum infrastructure, any of which could cause a painful spike in prices.

"With high gas prices the new norm, the average model year 2011 vehicle will cost its owners almost as much to fill up over its lifetime as it did to purchase it," said David Friedman, senior engineer and deputy director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Clean Vehicles program.

"Consumers need more options to shield themselves from the high cost of gasoline, options they are starting to get thanks to the fuel economy and emission standards that began to take effect in 2012," Friedman added.

Life & Style

Japanese architect Toyo Ito wins Pritzker Prize

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Japanese architect Toyo Ito, whose buildings have been praised for their fluid beauty and balance between the physical and virtual world, has won the 2013 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the prize's jury announced Sunday.

The 71-year-old architect joins such masters as Frank Gehry, I.M. Pei, Tadao Ando, Renzo Piano and Wang Su in receiving the honor that's been called architecture's Nobel Prize. Ito, the sixth Japanese architect to receive the prize, was recognized for the libraries, houses, theaters, offices and other buildings he has designed in Japan and other countries.

He accepted the honor by saying that whenever he's done designing a building, he becomes "painfully aware of my own inadequacy, and it turns into energy to challenge the next project."

"Therefore, I will never fix my architectural style and never be satisfied with my works," he said in a statement.

"Toyo Ito's architecture has improved the quality of both public and private spaces," said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who served on the Pritzker Prize jury.

"It has inspired many architects, critics and members of the general public alike. Along with all others involved with the Pritzker Prize, I am very pleased that he has received the award," Breyer said in a statement.

Some of Ito's notable creations include the curvaceous Municipal Funeral Hall in Gifu, Japan; the transparent Sendai Mediatheque library in Miyagi, Japan; the arch-filled Tama Art University Library in suburban Tokyo; the spiral White O residence in Marbella, Chile; and



This publicity photo provided courtesy of Toyo Ito and Associates, Architects, shows Japanese architect Toyo Ito's 1986 building, Tower of Winds, in Yokohama-shi, Japan.

the angular 2002 Serpentine Gallery Pavilion in London.

"His buildings are complex, yet his high degree of synthesis means that his works attain a level of calmness, which ultimately allows the inhabitants to freely develop their life and activities in them," said Chilean architect and Pritzker Prize jury member Alejandro Aravena.

Ito began his career at Kiyonori Kikutake & Associates after he graduated from Tokyo University in 1965. He founded his own architecture firm in 1971. His works have been exhibited in museums in the United States, England, Denmark, Italy, Chile and numerous cities in Japan.

Ito will receive a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medallion at the formal Pritzker ceremony May 29 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation, the Pritzker Prize was established in 1979 by the late entrepreneur Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy, to honor "a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture."

The Pritzker family founded the prize because of its involvement with developing Hyatt Hotel properties around the world and because architecture was not included in the Nobel Prizes. The Pritzker selection process is modeled after the Nobels.

Viral videos stoke celebrities' images

NEW YORK (AP)—Mila Kunis' stardom went up a notch last week, and you would think it's because she stars in the biggest movie of the year so far.

But "Oz the Great and Powerful," which debuted with \$79.1 million at the box office, had little to do with the sudden rush of adulation that engulfed Kunis. Instead, it was a seven-minute viral video that's been watched more than 10 million times and blogged about the world over.

The "Great and Powerful" isn't Oz, but the Internet, which can burnish a star's image just as it can destroy it.

The video, you've surely seen by now, is from a press junket interview for "Oz" with a young BBC radio personality, Chris Stark. Stark begins by announcing he's "petrified" at doing such an interview for the first time. But he's obviously quite comfortable as his own version of Hugh Grant, charmingly peppering Kunis with questions about pub drinking, his local soccer club in Watford and a theoretical day out together. He expects to earn "massive lad points," he says.

Kunis is exceptionally winning: She happily goes along, eager for a break from a day of monotonous TV interviews promoting the film. When Stark moves to return to more normal questions, she protests:

"Why? This is such a better conversation."

The clip was roundly greeted online as proof of Kunis' "awesomeness." (Google "Mila Kunis is awesome" and you'll get countless links rhapsodizing about the interview.) New York Magazine's Vulture blog hailed "a brand-new inductee into the most-adored-actress-ever club."

What's emerging is a new kind of stardom propelled by

glimpses of authenticity circulated on the Web like evidence of a star's real nature: guileless snapshots of their innate coolness. Internet videos are known for elevating anonymous people to renown, but they can greatly enhance the reputations of the famous, too. Kunis went viral because the interview confirmed her image: She's funny, sarcastic and game. She banters just as well in real life as she does in the romantic comedies she stars in.

It was the same when, in 2011, Ryan Gosling was captured in a cell phone video on a New York City intersection helping to stop a fight in the street. There was Gosling, wearing a baseball hat and carrying groceries, humbly playing the role of hero, just as he sometimes does in the movies. Stars aren't just like us, we think; they're just like their screen personas.



Kunis

Rowling to UK govt: Don't let down hacking victims

LONDON (AP)—Celebrities including J.K. Rowling and Hugh Grant accused the British government on Sunday of letting down the victims of media intrusion and urged tough new measures to rein in Britain's unruly press.

Lawmakers are to vote Monday on rival plans for tougher controls in the wake of the country's phone-hacking scandal.

The Conservative-led government says it will propose a new press watchdog with the power to levy fines of up to 1 million pounds (\$1.5 million). But hacking victims say the regulator must be backed by a new law to give it real teeth—something Prime Minister David Cameron opposes.

"Harry Potter" author Rowling—who testified previously to a media ethics inquiry about the impact of intrusive media upon her family—said she and other victims felt they "have been hung out to dry" by the government.

Grant, who won damages for phone hacking by Rupert Murdoch's now-defunct News of the World tabloid, said hacking

victims supported a rival plan by the Liberal Democrats and the Labour party for stronger media measures. The actor said lawmakers "promised victims to do right by them, and they have that chance on Monday."

Leaders of the government and opposition parties were holding last-minute talks late Sunday in a bid to reach common proposals.

Debate about how to control the press has raged in Britain since revelations in 2011 that tabloid journalists had eavesdropped on voicemails, bribed officials for information and hacked into computers in a relentless quest for scoops.

The scandal has brought the demise of one newspaper—Murdoch's News of the World—along with dozens of arrests and resignations, scores of lawsuits against Murdoch's media empire and a public inquiry into media ethics.

That inquiry, led by Lord Jus-



Rowling

tice Brian Leveson, last year recommended the creation of a strong press watchdog body dominated by non-journalists and backed by government regulation.

But negotiations between Cameron's Conservatives and others over how to implement those recommendations have stalled amid an increasingly acrimonious debate. Politicians are divided about whether a new press watchdog should be set up through legislation—as recommended by Leveson—or through a Royal Charter, an executive act that does not require a vote in Parliament.

Proponents say passing a law will put the watchdog on a firmer footing and give it more power to discipline rogue newspapers. Opponents believe that passing a media law would endanger the country's free press.

In fact, the proposals aren't all that different. A new law would set up an independent press watchdog, not control the

media directly. And the regulator would only have the power to impose fines or demand published apologies from newspapers—not to stop articles being published.

But the language of the debate has been fierce, with opponents fearing the demise of Britain's free press and advocates seeing a bullying media riding roughshod over people's rights.

"The idea of a law, a great, big, all-singing, all-dancing media law ... would have been bad for press freedom, bad for individual freedom," Cameron said.

Rowling accused the prime minister of letting down hacking victims by ignoring Leveson's proposals.

"I believed David Cameron when he said that he would implement Leveson's recommendations 'unless they were bonkers,'" she said. "I did not see how he could back away, with honor, from words so bold and unequivocal."

"Well, he has backed away, and I am one among many who feel they have been hung out to dry."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies,
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$6.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.
\$2.50 Additional for 3D Shows

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



Friday, Mar. 15th through Thur. Mar. 21st, 2013
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★



The Incredible Burt Wonderstone

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Steve Carell, Olivia Wilde, Steve Buscemi
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A down on his luck Las Vegas magician (Steve Carell) joins back up with an old partner (Steve Buscemi) to take on a new school illusionist (Jim Carrey) in this comedy from director Don Scardino. Olivia Wilde and James Gandolfini co-star.



Oz The Great and Powerful 3D

Friday	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00
Mon through Thurs	7:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Oz The Great and Powerful 2D

Friday	4:00
Saturday	4:00
Sunday	4:00
Mon through Thurs	4:00

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Jack The Giant Slayer 3D

Friday	7:20
Saturday	1:20
Sunday	1:20
Mon through Thurs	7:20

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	4:20	9:50
Saturday	4:20	9:50
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Exorcism II

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13



21 and Over

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:30	9:45
Saturday	4:30	9:45
Sunday	4:30	
Mon through Thurs	4:30	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday	7:30
Saturday	1:30
Sunday	1:30
Mon through Thurs	7:30

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Madonna calls on Boy Scouts to lift ban on gays

NEW YORK (AP)—Wearing a replica of one of the organization's uniforms, Madonna called on the Boy Scouts to lift its ban on gays while also calling for a "revolution" to prevent discrimination and abuse of the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community.

Speaking Saturday night at the GLAAD Media Awards, Madonna started off in a mischievous mood. She joked that she wanted to become a part of the Boy Scouts herself, but was turned down, even though she had the qualifications.

"I can build a fire. I know how to pitch a tent," said Madonna, sporting a Boy Scouts troop leader hat and a blue shirt and shorts set that included replicas of Boy Scout badges.

"I can rescue kittens from trees. Most importantly, I know how to scout for boys," she said, before adding, "I think they should change their stupid rules."

The Boy Scouts of America does not permit openly gay people to serve in the organization—a decision that has come under increasing criticism over the years.

Later, Madonna got serious as she talked about the conflicts in the world and of the bullying of young gay, lesbian and transgender people.



Madonna addresses the audience at the 24th Annual GLAAD Media Awards at the Marriott Marquis on Saturday March 16, 2013 in New York.

"When I think about young kids in America who are being bullied and tortured, who are taking their own lives because they feel alone and judged, out-

cast and misunderstood, I want to sit down and cry a river of tears," Madonna said.

Noting that she has teenagers herself, she said, "It's an atroc-

ity to me, I don't accept it."

Later she said, "I don't know about you, but I can't take this (expletive) anymore. That is why I want to start a revolution. It's 2013 people. We live in America, land of the free and home of the brave? That's a question, not a statement."

The awards are presented by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation which promotes the image of the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community in the media.

Madonna was on hand to give the Vito Russo Award to CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, who is openly gay. She lauded Cooper for standing up for the rights of others.

Also honored by GLAAD were the NBC musical series "Smash," a drama about staging a Broadway show; the documentary "How To Survive a Plague," and the TV reality show "The Amazing Race." Brett Ratner was given the Ally Award—a turnaround from 2011, when the organization condemned the film director for using an anti-gay slur, leading him to step down as director of the 2012 Academy Awards in the ensuing controversy.

Since then, Ratner has worked with the organization and made a public service announcement to promote equality.

The Hoff lends star power to Berlin Wall campaign

BERLIN (AP)—David Hasselhoff put his name behind a campaign to preserve one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall, calling it a "sacred" monument to cheers Sunday from Germans who fondly remember his schmaltzy hit "Looking for Freedom" as one of the soundtracks to their peaceful 1989 revolution.

The actor, best known for starring in "Knight Rider" and "Baywatch," joined ordinary Berliners in protesting a real estate developer's plans to move part of the wall to make way for an access path for a luxury housing development.

"It's like tearing down an Indian burial ground. It's a no-brainer," said Hasselhoff, before recounting his own memories of visiting East Germany—grim cities, grim food—shortly before unification.

Plans to move part of the East Side Gallery—a 1.3 kilometer (3/4 mile) stretch of wall painted by artists after the fall of communism and popular with tourists—sparked angry protests earlier this month. Activists have denounced it as part of a wider trend of steamrolling Berlin's tumultuous history to make way for gleaming but soulless developments in the heart of the city.

At least 136 people died between 1961 and 1989 trying to cross the wall that divided the communist-run East Berlin from West Berlin. Most of the wall has since been destroyed, with only two large sections remaining as memorials.

"It's a stupid idea to rip parts of the wall out for luxury apartments," said Roland Junge, one of thousands of locals who accompanied Hasselhoff on an impromptu walk along the wall Sunday.

"This last piece of the wall is really sacred," Hasselhoff told

reporters. "It's about people and it's about hearts that were broken, hearts that were torn apart and lives that were lost. That's what we're talking about today, not a piece of real estate."

Asked if he thought his song—belted out by a million people on both sides of the wall dur-

ing a New Year's Eve concert in 1989—had played any role in bringing down the most visible section of the Iron Curtain, Hasselhoff said: "Whether it had anything to do with anything, it's a song about freedom and it stuck in their head because it had a good hook."

'Oz' again tops box office with \$42.2 million

NEW YORK (AP)—"Oz the Great and Powerful" is living up to its name at the box office.

Walt Disney's 3-D blockbuster led all films for the second week in a row, taking in \$42.2 million according to studio estimates Sunday. Sam Raimi's prequel to the L. Frank Baum classic "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" also took in \$46.6 million overseas, leading to a two-week worldwide total of \$281.8 million.

In a winter of underperforming releases, that makes "Oz" easily the biggest hit of 2013 so far.

"Boy, did we need it," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "There have been a lot of box-office casualties this year. This is the shot in the arm that we needed, but we're still waiting for the marketplace to gain some sort of momentum."

The box office is down nearly 13 percent from last year.

Among the weekend's debuts, the Halle Berry thriller "The Call" far exceeded expectations with a \$17.1 mil-

lion opening for Sony and TriStar Pictures. The Steve Carell magician comedy "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" fared worse, opening with a disappointing \$10.3 million for Warner Bros.

The performances of the two new releases continued a theme of 2013: Movies targeting female audiences have had more success than male-driven films. "The Call," in which Berry plays an emergency operator, was deliberately marketed to women, who made up 61 percent of its audience, Sony said.

Female turnout has driven most all of the box office hits of the year, including the Melissa McCarthy comedy "Identity Thief" and the vampire romance "Warm Bodies." Macho films like Arnold Schwarzenegger's "The Last Stand" and Sylvester Stallone's "Bullet to the Head" have fizzled.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international

numbers are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Oz the Great and Powerful," \$42.2 million. (\$46.6 million international.)
2. "The Call," \$17.1 million.
3. "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," \$10.3 million.
4. "Jack the Giant Slayer," \$6.2 million. (\$10 million international.)
5. "Identity Thief," \$4.5 million. (\$745,000 international.)
6. "Snitch," \$3.5 million. (\$130,000 international.)
7. "21 and Over," \$2.6 million. (\$1 million international.)
8. "Silver Linings Playbook," \$2.6 million. (\$3.7 million international.)
9. "Safe Haven," \$2.5 million. (\$1.2 million international.)
10. "Escape From Planet Earth," \$2.3 million.

Rapper Tone Loc collapses on stage in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Rapper Tone Loc didn't want to be hospitalized after collapsing on stage during a weekend performance in Iowa.

Loc, whose real name is Anthony T. Smith, collapsed after finishing a song during a Saturday night concert on a downtown Des Moines bridge.

The concert ended abruptly while the 47-year-old was treated. Three employees of the Des Moines Register who were at the show said several minutes after Loc collapsed, fans were asked to leave.

Police Sgt. Steve Woody told

the newspaper that paramedics responded after Loc collapsed, but he refused to be taken to a hospital.

Loc's representative did not respond to messages Sunday, and it wasn't clear why he collapsed.

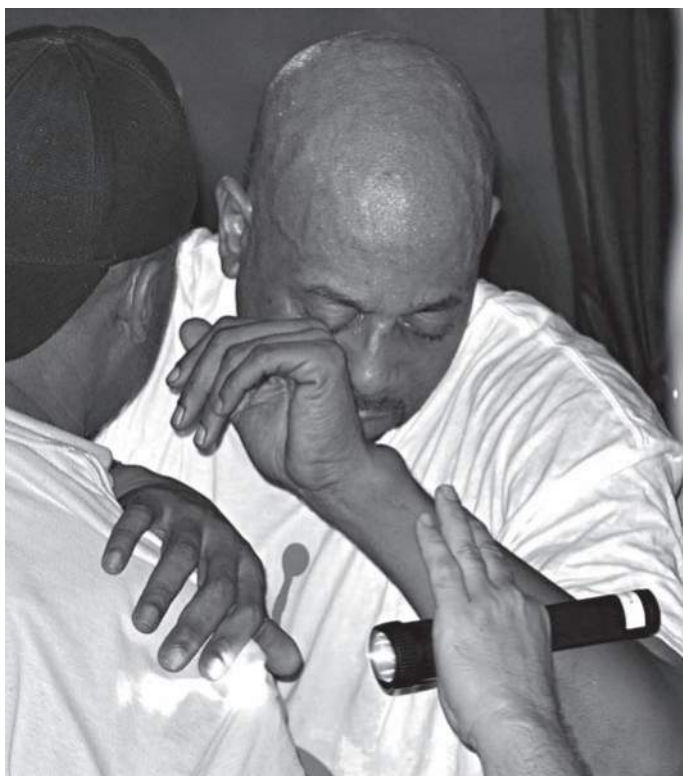
It wasn't the rapper's first time collapsing on stage. Loc, who is best known for his 1980s hits "Funky Cold Medina" and "Wild Thing," collapsed and had a seizure during a 2009 concert in Pensacola, Florida. Authorities said he had apparently overheated.

Loc also collapsed in 1995

while attending a Los Angeles Lakers game. The reason he collapsed wasn't given.

Loc has also appeared in a number of television shows and

movies, including "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" with Jim Carrey and "Heat" with Al Pacino. Loc has also been the voice of several animated characters.



This file photo from Friday, May 29, 2009 shows rapper Tone Loc assisted during a previous collapse on stage during an outdoor performance at Capt'n Fun Beach Club on Pensacola Beach, Fla.

Duchess: Hoping for baby boy, William wants girl

LONDON (AP)—The Duchess of Cambridge said Sunday that she doesn't know the sex of her first child—but she hopes it's a boy.

Her husband Prince William, however, would prefer a girl.

The former Kate Middleton, who is five months pregnant, made the revelation to a soldier at a St. Patrick's Day ceremony honoring the Irish Guards.

"I asked her 'do you know if it's a girl or boy?' and she said 'not yet,'" said Guardsman Lee Wheeler.

"She said 'I'd like to have a boy and William would like a girl.'"

Wheeler said the duchess told him the couple had not settled on names for the baby, who will be third in line to the British throne.

The duchess wore a green dress coat and a shamrock lapel pin as she presented sprigs of shamrock to soldiers in the annual ceremony at a barracks in

Aldershot, southern England. She also pinned a spring on the collar of the regiment's mascot, an Irish wolfhound named Domhnall.

Kate suffered a minor mishap when one of her high heels became briefly stuck in a drainage grille. The duchess leaned on her husband as she wrenched it loose.

The royal St. Patrick's Day tradition was started by Queen Alexandra, the wife of King Edward VII, in 1901.



Britain's Kate the Duchess of Cambridge holds flowers after presenting traditional sprigs of shamrocks to members of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards at the St Patrick's Day Parade at Mons Barracks in Aldershot, England, Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Official: Barbra Streisand to perform in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli government official says Barbra Streisand is coming to town.

The official says the celebrated American Jewish singer will perform in Israel in June in honor of Israeli President Shimon Peres' 90th birthday.

The official was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to brief reporters about the matter. There was no immediate comment from Streisand.

The official says Streisand's appearance will coincide with a yearly speaker's conference headed by the Israeli president. This year's conference takes place June 18-20 in Jerusalem.

President Peres told reporters five years ago that Streisand was set to perform at that year's presidential conference, but she didn't show up.

Israeli media said Streisand would also perform in two concerts.

Michelle Yeoh honored at Asian Film Awards

HONG KONG (AP)—Michelle Yeoh is happy to be honored with the "Excellence in Asian Cinema Award" but says she hopes there's no hidden message.

She asked, "I hope it's not their way of telling me that I need to retire?"

The star of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and last year's Aung San Suu Kyi biopic "The Lady" is being honored at the Asian Film Awards on Monday night.

Speaking to reporters a day earlier, Yeoh said she's happy to

receive the award where her career started, in Hong Kong.

And while she acknowledged she's long heard rumors of a

"Crouching Tiger" sequel, she says she's yet to see a script or other plans on the project. The 2000 original was directed by Ang Lee and won four Academy Awards.

The recent reports have attached kung fu star Donnie Yen to the unconfirmed sequel, and Yeoh said she's a fan and would welcome the opportunity to work with him if a

project is developed.

The Hong Kong film festival's opener Sunday was "Ip Man: the Final Fight," the latest film about martial arts master Ip Man. Lead actor Anthony Wong and actress Zhou Chou Chou were among stars walking the red carpet.

Veteran Hong Kong directors Johnnie To and Ronny Yu are also premiering works at the festival, which features "Infernal Affairs" director Andrew Lau.

The festival closes in April with the Iranian film "Closed Curtain," which is fresh off a win for best script at the Berlin Film Festival.

Boyfriend's sense of ownership may extend beyond the mail

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are in our 20s and have been dating for five years. We're renovating a home that we will live in once it's completed. We have never lived together before.

During the renovation I have come to the house to find that he has opened packages that were addressed to me. The first time, I didn't say anything because I thought he might have thought it was his.

After the second and third times, I mentioned—nicely—that they weren't his to open. He claims he "knew" they were things for the house, which is why he opened them.

I was raised that people's mail and packages were theirs to open, and I would never think of opening anything sent to him. This is an issue for me, but he brushes it off. He feels entitled to open my packages since it is his home, too. How can I make it clear that I expect him to respect my personal mail when he thinks this is no big deal?

NO RESPECT IN NEW YORK

DEAR NO RESPECT: If I were you, I'd be less concerned about his opening your packages and far more concerned that when you tell him something bothers you, he ignores it. His disregard for your feelings is a red flag.

Your boyfriend appears to think that what is yours is his. Is the reverse also true? (I'll bet it's not.) Does he also check your phone messages and email? Does this extend to any other areas of your relationship?

If this was only about his opening your mail, I would advise you to open a post office box in your name only. However, if the answer to any of my questions is yes, I think you should take a sober look at the entire relationship.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is addicted to prescription painkillers and has been for more than 10 years. She went to rehab once, but relapsed and hasn't been able to get clean since. She has tried to quit on her own, but ends up having great emotional stress and slight psychotic episodes and starts again.

My problem is, my husband sees her addiction as "manageable." He sees no harm in having her watch our 3-year-old daughter, even though he has told me he has seen her nod off with her eyes rolled back like drug addicts do, usually during the afternoon. When we argue about this, he becomes defensive and attacks my family for being "overprotective and paranoid."

Am I right to put my foot down? I'm sick and tired of fighting over this.

NOT PARANOID IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NOT PARANOID: Continue putting your foot down! A person whose eyes have rolled back after taking drugs or alcohol hasn't "nodded off." The person has lost consciousness and PASSED OUT. In your mother-in-law's case, it means that while she may be physically present, she is completely unavailable to supervise your child. Leaving your daughter under the care of a person in this condition is child endangerment. That's why you can't allow it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Would you please settle a friendly debate between me and my friends? Is it ever appropriate to use your cell phone to update social media or send a text message during a church sermon, or is it still considered a rude act?

OLD-FASHIONED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: It's still considered rude. In a house of worship, we are supposed to be thinking about more important things than our social schedule, our Facebook page or who tweeted us.

■■■

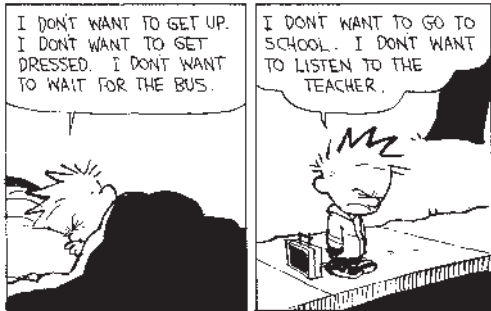
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fellow
5 " — Blue?"
8 Barber-shop item
12 Mentor
13 CD- —
14 Shel-tered, at sea
15 Office machine
17 Tarzan's transport
18 Scrooge's outcry
19 Hateful
21 Future mare
24 Met melody
25 Sandwich cookie
26 Site of many sites
30 Swindle
31 Paquin and Quindlen
32 Id counter-part
33 Gap
35 Bartlett, for one
36 Line of stitching
37 Papa

DOWN

38 Triangular letters
41 " — Town"
42 Pelvic bones
43 Lyon-based crime-fighting group
48 Expan-sive
49 Old hand
50 Norway's capital
51 Initial chip
52 Author Umberto
53 Spruce (up)
1 Film high-tech tricks (Abbr.)

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-19

1 LIP 2 DIALS 3 CAB 4 EGRET 5 ALE 6 CARPENTER 7 ROE 8 AMI 9 RCAPER 10 SAGO 11 MOONS 12 GLEE 13 EAR 14 NODULE 15 START 16 END 17 KNEES 18 COO 19 ED 20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jake Weber, 49; Bruce Willis, 58; Glenn Close, 66; Ursula Andress, 77.

Happy Birthday: You'll be faced with emotional issues that must be taken care of before you can move forward. Financial, legal or medical matters must be discussed openly and honestly. Make it clear what you want and don't give up until you are satisfied with what's happening. It's up to you to choose the best path. Your numbers are 3, 7, 18, 21, 27, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Offering an opinion is fine, but refrain from overreacting. Bide your time and rethink what you really want to say. Impulsive expression will be difficult to take back. Be sure and be kind. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't spend unnecessarily. Donating to a cause will leave you short. Offer your services or suggestions. A personal relationship may lead to debt if you aren't prepared to say no. Stabilize your situation instead of adding to your problems. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to your game plan. You have lots to offer and plenty to do that will bring you recognition. Express what's on your mind, but be ready to defend your thoughts. Your insight will guide you, but exaggerating will defeat you. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep personal secrets. Build whatever you are trying to achieve before you share your plans. Avoid anyone you feel is unpredictable or

looking for a fast route to fame and fortune. Build on solid ground and you will get ahead. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out and about. Connecting with people from different walks of life will get you thinking and working toward a goal that will improve your life. Making changes at home should be based on your gut feeling. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discuss what you want, your plans and your future. Partnerships are enhanced, and making sure you are on the same page will help you move forward without hesitation. An unexpected financial, legal or medical change should be monitored. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone will agree with you, but you must follow a path that leads you toward your set goals. Recognize who you differ from and in what ways and you will know how to move forward with relationships that are questionable. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tie up loose ends and make an effort to update or improve your surroundings. Renovations will turn out better than you anticipate. Contracts, settlements and financial moves can all be made with confidence. Love and romance will inspire you. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't wait for someone to stand in your way or disapprove. Take action and make things happen. Emotional issues are bound to arise with someone you've been disagreeing with lately. Find common ground or move on. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more into your creative ideas. Share your vision with someone in a position of authority. Your insight and dedication together will persuade others to support your plans. Don't give in to someone for the wrong reason. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Share your ideas and test them out. Make room at home to accommodate your plans. Having the space to explore new possibilities will lead to a lucrative endeavor. Diversify and you will be able to offer a service you enjoy doing. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts and feelings a secret, as you are likely to overreact. Give others a chance to show you what's possible and what's being offered. When it comes to negotiating what you want, you will win. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, determined and powerful. You are passionate and farsighted.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

3/19

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	1	4	6	7	3	9	5
9	3	6	8	5	2	4	1	7
7	4	5	3	9	1	2	8	6
5	7	2	9	8	6	1	4	3
4	9	3	7	1	5	6	2	8
1	6	8	2	3	4	7	5	9
6	2	4	5	7	9	8	3	1
8	5	7	1	4	3	9	6	2
3	1	9	6	2	8	5	7	4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOOGLE DRIVE Solution: 5 letters

C N T T E E Z I N G O C E R E
L O O E E T G C L R E P O R T
S I L I M N A N S T O R A G E
S S A L S P R E A D S H E E T
E S E M A I L E R H S M R O F
C U L N G B V A T C C I G F V
C C E I I O O E T N O N T E E
A S L F D S F R R E I D E E R
U I G I S E U F A T S R L D S
B D O L C A S B I T U O I B I
R D O E A K V D L C E W B A O
O N G S N D E E I E Y O C N
W I A T N A T S N I N E M K E
S F O L D E R S B A C K U P P
E P O W E R E T L I F A S T O

© 2013 Universal Jellik www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 3/19

Access, Backup, Browse, Business, Change, Click, Collaborate, Create, Discussion, Editing, Fast, Feedback, Files, Filter, Find, Folders, Forms, Gmail, Google, Instant, Internet, Keyword, Links, Mobile, Office, Open, Power, Recognize, Report, Revision, Safe, Save, Scan, Secure, Share, Sites, Slides, Spreadsheet, Storage, Templates, Version

Yesterday's Answer: Popo

THE COLLECTED WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE ARE: Access, Backup, Browse, Business, Change, Click, Collaborate, Create, Discussion, Editing, Fast, Feedback, Files, Filter, Find, Folders, Forms, Gmail, Google, Instant, Internet, Keyword, Links, Mobile, Office, Open, Power, Recognize, Report, Revision, Safe, Save, Scan, Secure, Share, Sites, Slides, Spreadsheet, Storage, Templates, Version

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Unit approximately 600sq.ft. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2-Sewing Machine Operator

High school diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit Applications to:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. • Tel.# 235-7270

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Accountant - \$7.00 per hour
Duties: Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy. Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers, debit, credit, and total accounts. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents, receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

Interested applicants may send their resume to Curry Enterprises, LLC dba Wild Bills Bar & Grill at PMB 1042 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

REQ. DAY & NIGHT CHILD CARE

Job Vacancy Announcement

(3) DAY CARE WORKER

- MUST BE COLLEGE GRADUATE
- CCDF CERTIFICATION REQUIRED
- WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS
- MUST BE RELIABLE
- MEDICAL BACKGROUND IS A PLUS
- FIVE (5) YEAR EXPERIENCE IN CHILDCARE

Please email resume to reqchildcare@yahoo.com

R.E.A.L. INTERNATIONAL CORP.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CLOSING DATE: MARCH 22, 2013

(1) Electrician - \$5.55/hour

- WITH MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS

PLEASE SEND RESUME TO
P.O. BOX 503531, SAIPAN, MP 96950

QQ RENT A CAR

Starting as low as...

\$29.99

without Insurance

Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866

\$100 Security Deposit Required

Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio

Some conditions may apply

KEUM OH CORPORATION

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) ACCOUNTANT

Full time

Minimum of 5 years work experience

Please send resume to

P.O. Box 504345 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Or email to parkwy2008@hotmail.com

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(01) Hemodialysis Technician

- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical School in health care.
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program.
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-Preferred.
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at **St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc.**, in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline for submission will be on March 22, 2013. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

WHATZIT Solution: On bended knee

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

KNEE BENDED

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section



Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

Heat pull away from Raptors, win 22nd straight



TORONTO (AP)—Back where their winning streak started on Super Bowl Sunday, the Miami Heat kept rolling right into March Madness.

Now it's on to Boston to face the rival Celtics—the team who ended the last streak this long.

The Heat equaled the second-longest winning streak in NBA history, pulling away in the fourth quarter Sunday to beat the Toronto Raptors 108-91 for their 22nd consecutive victory.

"It's a special ride right now that we're on," LeBron James said. "The best thing about it is we're doing it together."

James had 22 points and 12 rebounds for his career-best 32nd double-double of the season, Dwyane Wade had 24 points and nine assists, and Ray Allen scored 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for the defending NBA champions.

Chris Bosh finished with 18 points as the Heat matched the 22 consecutive wins recorded by the 2007-08 Houston Rockets. The NBA's longest streak is 33 games, set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

Miami will try to move into sole possession of second on Monday when it visits the Celtics—who ended the Rockets' run five years ago and have won 11 in a row at home.

"If there's any group that would be motivated in a circumstance like this, it's that team in green," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I don't know if the streak will be a big factor but they love playing against us, and vice versa. That's what happens when you meet a team consecutively in the playoffs. There's a history there, and that's what makes these games special."

The Heat have faced the Celtics twice so far this season. They blew out Boston 120-107 in Miami on opening night, then lost 100-98 in double-overtime on the road on Jan. 27, the day Boston learned that Rajon Rondo needed knee surgery.

"They played better than us for a large part of that game," Spoelstra said.

Winners of two straight, the Celtics may be without veteran forward Kevin Garnett on Monday. The 15-time All-Star sat out Saturday's victory over Charlotte with a strained left thigh and is day-to-day.

"We have to treat them with the respect they deserve," Spoelstra said. "Regardless of who plays for them, that's a team that will come out with an incredible amount of urgency."

Wade called the looming matchup with Boston "a great challenge."

"I think we'll be ready for it," he said. "We've got to get our rest and we've got to know we're going to have a dog fight on our hands."



Miami Heat's LeBron James drives at the Toronto Raptors defense as Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Toronto.

Heat forward Shane Battier, who played on the 2007-08 Rockets, inspired his teammates with a speech after their Feb. 3 win over Toronto. The 11-year veteran spoke again after Sunday's victory, an address that Spoelstra called "passionate" and "pure."

"Coach Riley gets paid close to six figures for his speeches," Spoelstra said, referring to former Heat coach and current team president Pat Riley. "I don't know what Shane should charge now, but he should get something."

Miami blew it open Sunday behind Allen's 3-point shooting after Toronto tied it at 77 early in the fourth quarter.

"Those (3-pointers) are what we feared for so many years (when Allen was with Boston)," Spoelstra said. "He can turn a game around just like that."

Toronto is the third team with multiple losses to the Heat during the streak. Miami has beaten Philadelphia three times and Atlanta twice.

"You talk about a well-oiled machine, those guys are efficient both offensively and defensively," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "They do it in a classy way. They are well put together."

Rudy Gay scored 27 and Amir Johnson had 18 points and 18 rebounds as the Raptors lost their 11th straight against Miami, extending their longest active losing streak against a single opponent.

"We just ran out of gas," Johnson said.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 18 points, and Terrence Ross and DeMar DeRozan each had 12 for the Raptors, whose last victory over the Heat was a

111-103 home win on Jan. 27, 2010—when Bosh still played for Toronto and James was in Cleveland.

Toronto tied it at 77 on a pair of free throws by Gay less than a minute into the fourth but, even with James on the bench, Miami answered immediately. Allen hit a jumper, Norris Cole threw a half-court lob pass to Wade for an alley-oop dunk and Allen made a 3-pointer, giving Miami an 84-77 lead.

"It was a perfect pass," Wade said. "I don't really show a lot of emotions nowadays too much, but I got a little pumped up after that one."

After a Raptors timeout, Chris Andersen converted a three-point play and Wade made two free throws, capping a 12-0 run that put the Heat up 89-77 with 7:42 left.

James scored eight points and Bosh had seven in the first and Miami closed the quarter with an 8-2 run to lead 27-19 after one.

A layup from Bosh gave Miami a 49-33 lead with 2:37 left in the half. Toronto closed the gap with a 6-0 run, but a 3 by James with less than 3 seconds left put the Heat up 55-43 at the break.

Miami called timeout at 6:49 of the third after a layup by DeRozan cut it to 66-59, but Bosh answered with a 3 from the corner, restoring Miami's double-digit advantage.

Toronto fought back again in the final minutes of the third. After a dunk by Gay, DeRozan converted a three-point play with 1:52 left, making it 76-69. DeRozan, who missed 10 of his first 12 shots, made two jumpers in the final 1:14 as the Raptors cut it to 76-73 heading into the fourth.

Lakers 113, Kings 102

In Los Angeles, Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, Metta World Peace added 22, and the Lakers won without Kobe Bryant, getting their sixth victory in seven games.

Bryant missed his first game of the season to rest his sprained left ankle, making a game-time decision to rest his aching joint. Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni used just seven players, but Jamison and fellow reserve Steve Blake took charge in the second half as the Lakers kept a one-game lead over Utah for eighth place in the Western Conference.

Isaiah Thomas scored 26 points and Patrick Patterson had 22 for the Kings, who have lost 12 of 13 on the road. The Kings played without DeMarcus Cousins, who has a bruised left quadriceps.

Bucks 115, Magic 109

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis scored a season-high 39 points, including 25 in the fourth quarter, to rally the Bucks past Orlando.

Ersan Ilyasova added 20 points and 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, which ended a three-game losing streak. Brandon Jennings had 15 points and 14 assists.

The Bucks ended the game on a 30-12 lead to pull out the victory over the Magic, who led most of the game. Orlando has lost seven of its last nine games.

Arron Afflalo had 24 points and rookie Maurice Harkless had a career-high 23 for the Magic. Nikola Vucevic added 20 points and 15 rebounds in the loss.

Clippers 93, Knicks 80

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul

had 20 points and eight assists, Caron Butler added 14 points, and the Clippers beat injury-depleted New York.

Blake Griffin had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who steadily pulled away in the second half of their first home win over the Knicks since February 2009.

J.R. Smith scored 17 points and Raymond Felton had 16 for New York, which played without All-Stars Carmelo Anthony and Tyson Chandler in its fourth straight blowout loss on a five-game trip.

The Knicks' Atlantic Division lead over Brooklyn dwindled to a half-game heading into the Nets' home game against Atlanta later Sunday.

Warriors 108, Rockets 78

In Houston, Stephen Curry scored 29 points, Klay Thompson had 26 with six 3-pointers, and Golden State stayed ahead of Houston in the Western Conference standings.

James Harden and Jeremy Lin scored 21 points apiece for the Rockets, who now trail the Warriors by 1 1/2 games for the No. 6 seed in the West.

Golden State snapped a five-game losing streak to the Rockets and got some payback for a 140-109 loss in Houston on Feb. 5, the Warriors' most lopsided loss of the season. The Rockets scored a season-high point total in that one and a season-low point total on Sunday night.

Golden State also held Houston to season-low point totals in the first quarter (10) and first half (31) and won in Houston for the first time since Dec. 31, 2007.

Timberwolves 97, Hornets 95

In Minneapolis, Derrick Williams scored a career-high 28 points and Ricky Rubio had 16 with six assists to lead Minnesota.

The Wolves got a lift in the final seconds from two players who hadn't seen appeared in a game in more than two weeks when Nikola Pekovic hit two free throws to pull Minnesota ahead for good, and Andrei Kirilenko blocked Eric Gordon's driving layup with 4.6 seconds to play.

Greivis Vasquez led the Hornets with 24 points and Robin Lopez had 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Minnesota shot 56.3 percent, but New Orleans stayed within striking distance largely because of its work on the offensive boards, scoring 20 second-chance points. Even on bad misses, Lopez was there to rebound or tip the ball to a teammate to keep possessions alive.

Thunder 107, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Kevin Durant scored 19 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, Russell Westbrook had 35 including the go-ahead jumper with 1 minute left, and Oklahoma City beat Dallas.

Durant was 3 of 9 from the floor before hitting seven shots in a row during one stretch in the fourth.

Westbrook connected on a 17-footer to give the Thunder a 103-101 lead. With a chance to tie on the next possession, Durant forced Dallas into a shot-clock violation when he blocked Mike James' desperation jumper.

Thabo Sefolosha hit a turnaround jumper over O.J. Mayo to stretch Oklahoma City's lead to 105-101.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points, including two free throws for the Mavericks to tie the score at 101 with 1:20 left. Dallas, however, didn't score after that.

Hawks 105, Nets 93

In New York, Al Horford had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Atlanta dominated the fourth quarter to keep Brooklyn from tying for first place in the Atlantic Division.

Josh Smith added 21 points and seven boards for the Hawks, who won their third straight by outscoring the Nets 34-20 in the final period. Neither team led by more than six points over the first three quarters and the game was tied with under 9 minutes to play before Atlanta broke it open with a 19-6 run.

Reggie Evans had a season-high 14 points and grabbed 22 rebounds for the Nets, who headed out for an eight-game road trip on a disappointing note. A victory would have moved them even with the slumping New York Knicks atop their division.

Louisville top overall seed in NCAA tournament

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER



Louisville is the top seed in the NCAA tournament after a top-sy-turvy season in college basketball, capped by another round of upsets over the weekend.

That other team from the Bluegrass State won't even get a chance to defend its national title.

While the Big East champion Cardinals surged to the top of the 68-team bracket released Sunday, joined by fellow No. 1 seeds Kansas, Indiana and Gonzaga, the school that won it all a year ago was left out of the field. Kentucky was hoping the committee would overlook a dismal performance in the Southeastern Conference tournament, but the Wildcats had to settle for a spot in the second-tier National Invitation Tournament.

"You've got to earn it each and every year," said Mike Bobinski, the Xavier athletic director who chaired the selection committee.

As if that's not bad enough for Kentucky fans, Louisville (29-5) gets to rub a little more salt in its rival's wounds by opening the tournament about 75 miles from campus on Kentucky's home court, Rupp Arena in Lexington. The Cardinals will face either Liberty or North Carolina State in a second-round game Thursday. Kentucky plays an NIT game Tuesday—on the road because Rupp is taken for the NCAAs—at Robert Morris.

The selection committee had its work cut out after five teams swapped the top ranking in The Associated Press poll, capped by West Coast Conference champion Gonzaga (30-2) moving to the lead spot for the first time in school history. Bobinski said six teams were in the running for No. 1 seeds on the final weekend, the result of a season in which no school established itself as a clear-cut favorite.

Of course, only four spots were available at the head of each bracket. The top one went to fourth-ranked Louisville, which stumbled through a three-game losing streak in January after rising to No. 1 in the poll, and came up short in an epic five-overtime loss at Notre



Louisville's Russ Smith (2), Gorgui Dieng (10) and Luke Hancock, center, celebrate with the team after their 78-61 win over Syracuse in an NCAA college basketball championship game at the Big East Conference tournament, Saturday, March 16, 2013, in New York. AP

Dame a few weeks later.

The Cardinals have ripped off 10 straight wins since, capped by a stunning turnaround in the championship game of the Big East tournament. They trailed Syracuse by 16 points early in the second half, but put on the full-court pressure and won in a romp, 78-61.

The Big East, in its final year before the basketball-only schools break away to form their own league, led the way with eight teams in the NCAA field.

"We are ecstatic to be the No. 1 seed, particularly after finishing off one of the greatest conferences in the history of college basketball with a Big East championship," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "Our players showed incredible grit to come back from 16 points down. We know we will be challenged right away in one of the toughest brackets that I've seen in quite some time. I think our guys are up for the challenge."

No. 7 Kansas (29-5) moved up to take the second overall seed after an impressive run through the Big 12 tournament, punctuated by a 70-54 victory over rival Kansas State in the title game. No. 3 Indiana (28-6)

is third overall despite falling to Wisconsin in the Big Ten semifinals. The Zags claimed the last of the coveted No. 1 seeds, edging out Atlantic Coast Conference champion Miami.

The top spots are significant in at least one respect: A No. 1 has never lost to a 16th-seeded team.

"It's going to happen. A 16 is going to beat a 1 eventually," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "This is a unique tournament. I haven't studied the bracket, but I would expect the unexpected. There will be a lot of mild upsets in this tournament."

Miami, known more as a football school, became the first ACC team to be denied a top seed after winning both the regular season and the conference tournament.

"We try to control the things we can control," coach Jim Larranaga said. "We have no control over that. Wherever they seed us, wherever they send us, whoever we play, we'll get ready just like we do for every game."

The Hurricanes were among the No. 2 seeds with conference rival Duke, Georgetown from the Big East, and Big Ten tournament champion Ohio State.

"If we had five spots, Mi-

ami would be there with us," Bobinski said. "In the final analysis, we put Gonzaga just ahead of them. But it was very, very close."

Duke, which had been atop the RPI rankings, cost itself a shot at a No. 1 seed with an upset loss to Maryland in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament. Georgetown lost in the Big East semifinals and settled for a No. 2 as well, but Indiana was in no danger of dropping off the top line, despite its loss to the Badgers. Bobinski said the Hoosiers' overall body of work was good enough to ensure they didn't fall below one of the top four spots, no matter what happened Sunday.

The tournament begins Tuesday with a pair of games in Dayton, Ohio. Everyone is trying to get to Atlanta for the Final Four, which starts April 6 at the Georgia Dome.

If Louisville advances to the round of 16, there's a chance Pitino would get to match up with Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford, a regional MVP on Pitino's Kentucky team that made it to the Final Four two decades ago.

"I hope we get the opportunity. That would be nice," Ford

said. "I agree with the NCAA committee that they're the No. 1 overall seed, after watching them play (Saturday) night and what they've done lately in the Big East."

On Thursday, Gonzaga takes on Southern in the second round of the West Regional at Salt Lake City. The Zags will be relishing their first No. 1 seed, though they are hardly a tournament neophyte; this is their 15th straight NCAA appearance, a mid-major program that has shown it can hang with the big boys.

This season, they come into the tournament on a 14-game winning streak.

"In our judgment that's a very complete and very strong basketball team," Bobinski said.

On Friday, Kansas stays close to home in Kansas City, Mo., facing Western Kentucky in a South Region second-round game, while Indiana opens in Dayton, Ohio, against either LIU Brooklyn or James Madison, another of the "First Four" contests.

One thing is for sure in this most uncertain season: There won't be a repeat champion.

A year after taking its eighth national title—only UCLA has

won more—Kentucky's success in restocking each year with the best one-and-done prospects hit a roadblock. The Wildcats never meshed as a unit, then lost the best of the freshmen when Nerlens Noel went down with a season-ending knee injury. An upset over Florida boosted their stock heading to the SEC tournament. But the Wildcats turned in a miserable performance in Nashville, Tenn., losing to Vanderbilt 64-48 in the quarterfinals.

"That was a tough way to finish if you're going to impress upon us that you're one of the best teams in the nation," Bobinski said.

While the Big East had the most teams, followed by the Big Ten with seven, the less-glamorous leagues also did well. Middle Tennessee, for instance, was the last of the at-large teams to make the field, along with LaSalle, Boise State and Saint Mary's, beating out more recognized programs such as Tennessee, Iowa, Alabama and Virginia. Not to mention Kentucky.

In all, 11 of the 37 at-large bids went to teams outside the so-called power conferences.

Middle Tennessee lost in the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament after winning the regular season title, which in previous years might have been enough to knock them out of the NCAAs. Not this time. The Blue Raiders (28-5) are headed to the tournament, helped along by another upset when Mississippi knocked off Florida in the SEC championship game Sunday. Middle Tennessee had beaten the Rebels.

"They had no rough patches along the way, and their win over Ole Miss looks better at this point in time," said Bobinski, who frequently cited road wins as a leading factor in who got bids.

After a season of upsets, Oklahoma State's Ford doesn't expect anything to change in the NCAAs.

"More than any year I can remember, I don't think seeding really matters," he said. "Probably if you're a (No.) 1 seed, your first game, you've got a pretty good chance of getting by that. Then even after that, I think it's throw it up in the air. I looked



PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—The uphill climb to the 18th green at Innisbrook was nothing compared with the journey that brought Kevin Streelman his first PGA Tour victory.

He burned up three cars driving some 400,000 miles across the country playing the mini-tours. He used to clean clubs during the week and caddie on the weekends.

Streelman finally a PGA Tour winner

His biggest claim on tour was winning \$1 million from a bonus competition called the Kodak Challenge. His last win was five years ago in the club championship at Whisper Rock.

Streelman won the Tampa Bay Championship on Sunday in his 153rd start on the PGA Tour.

The way he played this weekend on the tough Copperhead course—particularly the back

nine—made it look as if he had done this many times before.

"Always had a dream of getting here," Streelman said. "And so to get this is the culmination of a lot of hard work and a lot of time spent late into the evening, and getting up early in the morning. And it's really a dream come true."

Streelman took the lead for good with a 5-iron into 6 feet on the par-3 13th, the toughest at

Innisbrook on the final day, for a birdie.

"Probably the best shot of my life in that situation," Streelman said. "It's just how I envisioned it and I pulled it off."

He played with so much peace and precision that his target on the daunting tee shot at the 16th hole was a group of four trees. He aimed between the second and third tree. And he met his final challenge with a 20-foot

birdie putt on the par-3 17th hole, leading to a 4-under 67.

Streelman didn't make a bogey over the last 37 holes. He didn't miss a shot the last 11 holes.

"Hopefully, we can do it again," Streelman said. "This is a lot of fun."

Boo Weekley, who teed off three hours before the leaders, had a tournament-best 63 and waited to see if that would be enough. He kept up hopes until Streelman

made birdie on the 17th, and then ripped another tee shot down the middle on the 18th.

The victory sends Streelman, who finished at 10-under 274, to the Masters next month for the second time in his career.

Cameron Tringale had a 66 and finished alone in third when Leonard, who earlier made bogey from the bunker on the 16th, three-putted the final hole for a 71. Leonard wound up in a tie for fourth with defending champion Luke Donald (69) and Greg Chalmers (70).

MGA's March Ace tourney this Sunday at Lao Lao Bay



The Marianas Golf Association is holding its March Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's east course. Show time is set for 9am leading up to a 10am tee off.

Club president Carl Hocog's invitation for any interested new members to join remains open.

The MGA requires a \$50 an-

nual membership fee, which is coincidentally due to be paid in full this Sunday.

Participating members are also subject to a special green fee rate of \$35 for each monthly event; there are currently about 20 current members to date and more are always welcome.

The newly formed group would also like to thank Laolao Bay Golf Resort for their help and support.

Tournaments are played

with a handicap system where players maintaining a handicap of 10 and under tee off from the championship tees (blue); and those with a handicap of 11 and above tee off from the men's intermediate white tees; while female participants tee off from the red ladies tees. MGA takes pride in its handicap system as most other organizations do not utilize the championship tees during their monthly contests.

To compensate, members who tee off from the championship tees are subject to a +2 handicap that will be added to their final standing in effort to ensure more competitive results.

For more information, contact MGA vice president J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, email marianasgolf670@gmail.com, or check out their Facebook page listed under www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. **(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)**

DREAM

From Page 28

lead in the overall standings. However, Taro Sue eventually lost the overall lead when James passed Sendin on their way out of American Memorial Park compound. Sendin went on to record the second best split time in the relay with his 1:08.49 and settle for the second overall fin-

ish, but first in the men's field.

Akimaru, Castro, and Sendin were way ahead of runners-up Tamio Nishikido and Jeff Taylor, who completed the race at the 3:59:16 mark. Nishikido did both the swim and run legs, timing in at 35:14 and 1:16:12, respectively, while Taylor logged 2:07:50 in the bike race.

Pacific Islands Club's Christopher Mojar, Ricardo Antonio, and June Evangelista came in

next, just 17 seconds behind the runners-up. Mojar recorded 35:45 in the swim race, Antonio tallied 2:06:04, and Evangelista timed in at 1:17:44.

Other finishers in the men's division were Daniel Calvo, Cesar Fortaleza, and Min Su Kim, who totaled 4:04:34 and the two-man teams of Manny Aaron and Philip Guang (4:09:35) and Benjamin and Ben Babauta (4:31:29).

In the women's division,

there was only one team with mother and daughter Glorybel and Angel Marie Tan joining forces with Regina Sebial. Angel Marie was the fastest in the swim leg in the relay and fourth overall behind Ben Allen, Rory Downie, and Olivier Marceau after logging 27:24. Sebial did the bike leg and posted 2:12:37, while Glorybel anchored the team to the finish line and clocked in at 1:29:34.

SSFM

From Page 28

Docomo were set to collide last night for the other semis pairing in Division A, right after the Adobo-Maplas Final Four tiff in Division B.

Down by as much as 16 points, SSFM stole the win from a stunned Saipan TV after outgunning the latter in the last 4:30 of the match, 17-4. Saipan TV, which started the second half with a 41-29 lead before settling for a standoff at the end of the third, 55-all, completely folded up after scoring only one field goal and going 2-for-5

from the stripe in the closing minutes of the game.

Saipan TV had its last taste of the lead at the 68-66 tally, before Bon Brennan and Jun Pantaleon hit back-to-back treys and Leo Galarse escaped with a fastbreak layup to give SSFM a 74-68 cushion, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Tim Wesley temporarily stopped the bleeding for Saipan TV, as he connected inside and also drew a foul. However, he missed the bonus shot and later went 1-for-2 from the foul line in their next offensive set, while Kelvin Fitial also had a split, pushing Saipan TV closer to the exit door.

While Saipan TV had to earn its points from the foul line, SSFM had no problems on their field goal shooting with Eric Dela Rosa closing out with two undergoal stabs and Brennan and Pantaleon adding one shot each at the paint.

Brennan paced SSFM with his 27 points, making 11 of them in the third quarter to spark the team's recovery. Four other SSFM finished in double digits with Pantaleon nailing 16 Galarse contributing 15, and Dela Rosa and Rocyl Ritual tallying 11 and 10, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the Division A playoffs, Marlon Ibanes scored only 7 points, but made 5 of

them in the fourth, including a crucial trey that gave Gualo Rai the lead in the closing seconds of the match, 71-68. Prince Factor also contributed to the come-from-behind win with his early field goals in the fourth, while Justin Cayading and Joseph Galulu sealed the win with their baskets in the homestretch.

Gualo Rai managed to grab the win after recovering from a lethargic first quarter where it scored only 12 points.

John Larot matched Gualo Rai's output in the opening period to lift the Sexy Boys to a 20-12 advantage. The Sexy Boys kept the upper hand at the break, 37-33, with Herbert Ma-

Shirley's caging meeting today



Representatives of teams competing in next month's 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League are required to attend a meeting tonight at 6pm at Shirley's Garapan.

The fourth edition of the IT&E- and Advance X-Terminator-sponsored league has 11 squads. The list includes host Shirley's, defending champion DFS, Public School System/Hoops, Kanoa Resort, Kalayaan, Mobil, Mariana Resort, I Love Saipan, Air Apparel, Docomo, and Dollar Days.

Details about uniforms, tournament rules and regulation, and opening ceremony will be discussed in tonight's meeting. Organizers are planning to kick off the league first

week of April, but will need the approval of the participating teams.

Games in the Shirley's caging will be played three times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each squad is allowed to have a maximum of 14 players on its roster, but nine must be employees of the company they are representing. Participating teams can recruit five more players, who must not be employed by another company that will also play in the 2013 season. Then at game time, teams must have at least one employee on the court. Violation of the special rule will result to technical fouls charged to the offending squad.

For more information, contact Pagarao at 285-1138 or Boy Lingcaso at 789-7943. **(PR)**

ranan picking up where Larot left off, drilling 8 points in the second canto.

In the third quarter, Gualo Rai and the Sexy Boys traded baskets, allowing the latter to stay on top, 56-52. Then in the fourth, Factor, who was scoreless in the third, dropped 10 of his 23 markers with his fifth field goal tying the game at 68. Ibanes's trey broke the deadlock in the ensuing play after the Sexy Boys faltered on its offensive set, while Cayading made a 2-pointer, and Galulu split his charities to secure the win.

First Game

Gualo Rai 74 –Factor 23,

Galulu 18, Yap 12, Ibanez 7, Dayrit 5, Cayading 4.

Sexy Boys 71 – Larot 18, Maranan 18, Tinio 12, Santos 8, Tangcoy 6, Daria 4, Sablan 3, R. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 33-37, 52-56, 74-71.

Second Game

SSFM 83 – Brennan 27, Pantaleon 16, Galarse 15, Dela Rosa 11, Ritual 10, Guintu 22, Tobias 2.

Saipan TV 72 – Talaria 17, Wesley 15, Fitial 14, Alipio 9, Aquino 9, Reyes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 13-21, 29-41, 55-55, 83-72.

OVER

From Page 28

gorio T. Camacho Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Agape Christian School.

The organizing Northern Marianas Athletics is doing the series of qualifying events by zones and yesterday's trials were

for Zone A. Zone B will have its qualifier today with students from Whispering Palms, Oleai, Kagman, San Antonio, and Brilliant Star competing, while Zone C's Koblerville, Saipan International School, Mt. Carmel School, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan will join the trials, starting tomorrow.

Week 1 of the qualifiers for 6 to 12 age group (elementary

division) features four events—the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs and the long jump for both boys and girls.

For the high school (U18) and junior high school (U14) divisions, qualifiers will begin this Thursday. Many-time champion Marianas High School leads this year's participants and will be challenged by Kagman, Saipan Southern, SIS, Marianas Baptist Academy, and

Agape. In the junior high, Hopwood is the perennial contender and the Hilitai will go up against Chacha, SCS, MBA, Agape, Whispering Palms, and SIS.

The high school and junior high will have qualifiers in the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 1,500m runs, discus, and shot put this week.

For Week 2 of the trials (April 1 to 4), Zone B participants will compete first for the 400m,

800m, and 1,500m run and softball throw, while Zone A and Zone C schools will have their turns on April 2 and 3, respectively. For the high school and junior high qualifiers on April 4, students will see action in the 400m, 800m, and 3,000m races, javelin throw, and long jump.

The qualifying events will continue in the last three weeks of April with schools from the three zones

competing in alternate schedule and the high school and junior high divisions having their trials every Thursday. Qualifiers will run from 4pm to 7pm, so the public is encourage not to use the track facility and give way to the students.

Students making the grade in the qualifiers will earn slots to the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships, which will run from May 8 to 10.

JR

From Page 28

in leads Nathan Camacho (6), Nakamura (5), Henry Lizama (5), X-clusive's Ryan Borja (5), and Vicente Leon Guerrero (5).

Aguon's three triples fronts Ol'Aces' Juan Quitugua (2) and Red Sox' Roke Tenorio (2) and six other solo acts.

Nathan Camacho and X-clusive's Allen Cepeda co-head the league in doubles with three apiece and lead eight others knotted up at two each. Aguon and Franklin Lizama lead the pack in runs scored with 10 apiece and lead Henry Lizama (8), Nakamura (8), Pangelinan (8), Quitugua (8), X-clusive's Jay Kalen (7), and a trio of players with six runs.

Meanwhile, Aguon, Cedric

Camacho, Leon Guerrero, Mendiola, Nakamura, Pangelinan, and Quitugua have all cracked a home run thus far.

Over in the Senior League, Enforcers' lefty Darion Jones has accrued 11 hits in 17 trips to the dish for a league-leading 0.647 batting average.

He leads teammate Franklin K. Lizama (.588), IT&E Fielders' Kainoa Wanket (.563), conglomerated Hunters' Jhace Palacios (.526), Enforcers' P.J. Sablan (.500), Fielders' Ian Rogolifo (.500), Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' Mike Muna (.500), Hunters' K.J. Deleon Guerrero (.474) and Alex Monkeya (.471), and Enforcers' Jose Lizama (.467) with four others holding at least 13 at bats swing between 0.421 and 0.444.

Monkeya has set the bar with his 10 RBIs, which is edging

Jones (9) and Deleon Guerrero (9). Ol'Aces' Verlanse Secharmidal leads the league in triples with three ahead of Monkeya (2), Deleon Guerrero (2), Palacios (2) and a dozen other soloists. Sablan's three triples fronts Hunters' Jerald Cabrera (2) and Ol'Aces' Terson Eina (2). Monkeya also boasts a league-high 11 runs scored and paces Ol'Aces' Jesse Brel (10), Wanket (8), Palacios (8), Muna (7), and Jones (7). Monkeya and Deleon Guerrero also represent the lone pair of homerun club members at one apiece.

In the Big League, Ol'Aces' Jared Sablan has tallied 11 hits in 17 plate appearances for an outstanding batting average of 0.647.

He leads Paradise Island Animal Hospital Padres' Brian Camacho (.556), Natibu Sports Association Braves' Greg Iska-

wa (.556), IT&E Fielders' Davy Matagolai (.538), Ol'Aces' Jun Rabauliman (.478) and Jake Flores (.450), Padres' A.J. Lizama (.444), Ol'Aces' Lancaster Secharmidal (.438) and Jonah Flores (.438), and Padres' Kenta Castro (.417) with six others holding at least 12 at bats swinging between 0.333 and 0.389.

Jake Flores and Rabuliman co-head the field in RBIs with eight apiece and lead Sablan (6), Brian Camacho (6), and Padres' Carl Camacho (6).

Jake Flores, Braves' Peter Lieto, Lizama, and Sablan are all knotted atop the triples category with two each. Iskawa's four doubles paces Rabuliman (3), Braves' Robert Tudela (3), and a handful of others with two apiece.

Brian Camacho and Secharmidal have crossed the plate a league-high 10 times and lead Li-

eto (9), Ray Tenorio (8), Jake (7) and Jonah (7) Flores, Rabauliman (7), and four others with six per.

Fielders' Ricardo Dela Cruz (1) remains the only home run hitter so far this season.

In pitching, Enforcers' Kier Agda (2-0) has given up just three earned runs off 10 hits through 15 innings for a league-high earned run average of 1.40, which leads X-clusive's Virgil Secharmidal (4.80). Statistics were based on a minimum of 11 innings pitched.

Enforcers' Cedric Camacho leads in strikeouts with 19 ahead of Red Sox's Craig Aguon (16), Comets' Franco Nakamura (16), Agda (15), Red Sox's Nathan Camacho (15), and IT&E Fielders' Franco Igisaia (15).

In the Senior League, Braves' Frankie Lieto (1-1) has allowed five earned runs off 14 hits

through 16 innings for a solid ERA of 2.19, which leads Docomo Ol'Aces' Mike Muna (4.50) and the Hunters' Jhace Palacios (4.57). Statistics were based on a minimum of 13 innings pitched.

Lieto's 20 strikeouts also leads Palacios' 17 thus far.

Big League Braves' Peter Lieto (1-0) has given up zero earned runs and four hits through 13 innings for a perfect 0.00 ERA that leads IT&E Fielders' workhorse Joe Atalig (1.72), Docomo Ol'Aces' Jared Sablan (1.91), and Paradise Island Animal Hospital Padres' Carl Camacho (2.92). Statistics were based on a minimum of 11 innings pitched.

Padres' Brian Camacho (3.78) fronts the strikeout chase with 30 and leads Atalig (21), Lieto (18), and Carl Camacho (15).

Swim Leg of 24th Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS BY
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tyce Mister runs to the swim-bike transition area.



Lennosuke Suzuki gets out of the water at the Pacific Islands Club during the swim leg of the 24th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.



Tamio Nishikido runs along the paved road that leads swimmers to the PIC parking area where his teammate Jeff Taylor is waiting for him.



Daz Parker checks out her pro competitor before heading out of the water.



From left, Mieko Carey, Peri Gray, and David Esposito rush their way to the swim-bike transition area.



Two swimmers head for the second lap of the 2-kilometer swim leg in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.



Sam Gardner makes his way to the swim-bike transition area.



Christopher Mojar gets into the shower before tagging teammate and biker Ric Antonio.



Russia's Aleksandr Doroovskikh and Allan Collinson head to the swim-bike transition area.



Brad Ruszala runs toward his bike.



Heat pull
away from
Raptors,
win 22nd
straight

24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Louisville
top overall
seed in NCAA
tournament



25

28 TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dream Team rules Tagaman relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dream Team's Victoria Chentsova, Aldrin Sta. Ana, and Jesse James bested nine other squads in last Saturday's 24th Tagaman Triathlon.

The trio combined for 3:21:16 to post the fastest time among the 10 relay teams and top the mixed division. Chentsova started Dream Team's race and completed the 2-kilometer swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club in 28:51, the second fastest in the relay. Then Sta. Ana also had the second best time in their field, clocking in at 1:54:30. For Dream Team's finish, up-and-coming runner James negotiated the 15K run at 1:06:19, which was the fastest split time in the relay.

Dream Team finished the relay more than 11 minutes ahead of the team of Christele Glemot, Renato Calage, and Chang Whan Jang, who clocked in at 3:42:45. Glemot submitted 35:38 in the two-lap swim leg,

Calage recorded 1:54:30 in the bike race, and Jang tallied 1:12:37 in the run.

Completing the Top 3 in the mixed relay was the trio of Lenosuke Suzuki, Mark Isip, and Tiffani Lin. Suzuki timed in at 34:09 in the swim race, Isip logged 2:02:18 in the bike, and Lin submitted 1:24:53 for their combined time of 4:01:20.

In the men's division Taro Sue's Kento Akimaru, Erico Castro, and Charlie Sentin prevailed against five other squads.

Akimaru had the third fastest time in the swim leg in relay with his 28:53, while Castro held the best time in the bike leg in their division with his 1:44:42 to give Taro Sue a few minutes

See DREAM on Page 26

SSFM, Gualo Rai complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both Gualo Rai and SSFM are scheduled to play in the semis games tomorrow against



SSFM and Gualo Rai rallied past separate opponents to catch the last bus to the semifinal round of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League.

Gualo Rai eked out a 74-71 win over the Sexy Boys last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court to nail the fourth and final semis berth in Division B. In Division A, SSFM also posted a come-from-behind victory over Saipan TV, 83-72, to advance to the Final Four.



Saipan TV's Tim Wesley, left, steps in to stop SSFM's Eric Dela Rosa from making a shot during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in Division A of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Chinatown and QQ Car Rental, respectively. Pacific Star and

See SSFM on Page 26



From left, Jesse James, Aldrin Sta. Ana, and Victoria Chentsova flash the No. 1 sign after taking the top overall place in the relay race in last Saturday's 24th Tagaman Triathlon.

Over 100 students join All Schools opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



More than 100 students participated in the opening of the qualifying events for the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The first day of the trials was held for students in the 6 to 12 age group and featured representatives from Saipan Community School, Dandan Elementary School, Gre-

See OVER on Page 26

Jr. Red Sox, Sr. Enforcers, Big League Ol'Aces top batting charts

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Bank of Saipan Red Sox of the Junior League, DARE Program Enforcers of the Senior League, and Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces of the Big League are dominating their respective age groups at the plate, according to Saipan Little League's latest list of batting statistics released last Saturday.

Red Sox's Craig Aguon has tabulated 10 hits in 15 at bats for a batting average of 0.667 and has



Elementary school students race in the 100m qualifying runs held yesterday during the opening of the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships trials at the Oleai Sports Complex.



DARE Program Enforcers' Darion Jones follows through on a base hit during Saturday's Senior League matchup against the IT&E Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

three teammates close behind him among the Top 10 on the list.

Aguon leads Comets' Franco Nakamura (.643), Red Sox's Jobe Reyes (.583), Junior Police Officers Program Enforcers' Franklin Delos Santos-Lizama (.533), Comets' Aurel Mendiola (.500), Enforcers' Cedric Camacho (.500), Red Sox's Nathan Camacho (.467) and Jose Tyquingo (.385), IT&E Fielders' George Pangelinan (.364), and Enforcers' Henry Lizama (.357) and Kier Agda (.357) with two others holding a minimum of 11 plate appearances swinging above 0.300.

Cedric Camacho's 11 runs batted

See JR. on Page 26